

LSHS Mandatory Reporting Reminders

Missouri's Mandated Reporter Requirements Have Changed

[\(Section 162.069.3 RSMo\)](#) [\(Section 210.115 RSMo\)](#)

- “All mandatory reporters shall, upon finding reasonable cause, directly and immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect”
- “No supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit any reporting...”
- “No internal investigation can be initiated until a report has been made.”
- “Abuse is not limited to abuse inflicted by a person responsible for the child’s care, custody and control...”

Things to Remember...

1. Listen carefully and gather details respectfully.
2. Avoid making promises that you will not share what you have learned.
3. As quickly as possible, share concerning information with the student’s counselor and/or administrator. Never use email as your only means of initial contact.
4. As a team, make a decision according to Missouri State Guidelines on Mandatory Reporting to determine if a Hotline needs to be made. https://dss.mo.gov/cd/pdf/guidelines_can_reports.pdf
5. Avoid conducting your own investigations or talking about the incident with those not directly involved.
6. Remember, the original responder is the person responsible for making the Hotline.
7. Reporting abuse/neglect is A) Mandatory by Missouri Law B) Confidential.
8. Afterwards, make a confidential record of the report and share with student’s administrator.
9. Record contact information from the Children’s Division worker. Be accessible, if needed, to provide additional information.
10. Reports of Self-Harm or Suicidal ideologies should also be reported to the student’s counselor/administer and followed up with appropriate parent and/or medical authorities.

Understand Your Legal Responsibilities

Reporting requirements are now individual and not institutional. Mandated Reporters can no longer “*cause a report to be made,*” by reporting suspect child abuse to a “*designated agent.*”

Example: A teacher suspects a student is experiencing abuse. Teacher is mandated to call the Missouri Children’s Division Hotline and make a direct and immediate report. Teacher cannot convey concerns to school counselor or principal for them to make a report on their behalf.

Children’s Division Hotline Number 800.392.3738