

Speaks - m eo

**Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors Act**

Minnesota law requires professionals who work with children to report suspected abuse or neglect. Although this is a personal responsibility, we thought it might be helpful to give you an overview of what the statute provides.

**What are my responsibilities?**

Specifically, under Minnesota Stat. 626.566, an educator is required to make a child protection report if he or she knows or has reason to believe that a child has been neglected or physically or sexually abused, or has been neglected or physically or sexually abused within the preceding three years.

**Who do I report to?**

- If you know or suspect the child is in immediate danger or abandoned, call 9-1-1 or contact the Duluth Police SCAN Unit at 218-723-3235.
- If the child is not in immediate danger and the alleged perpetrator is a parent, guardian, day-care provider or staff member of a licensed facility, contact either the SCAN Unit or the St. Louis County Social Services Department at 218-726-2012.
- If the child is not in immediate danger and the alleged perpetrator is someone outside the family and not a licensed facility staff person, contact the Duluth Police SCAN Unit at 218-723-3235.

**You cannot delegate the responsibility for reporting to anyone else. You alone are responsible for making the report to the county social services or to a law enforcement agency.**

If you are unsure whether a situation should be reported, contact the St. Louis County Social Services Department.

**Do I have to fill out or sign anything?**

**You must also file a written report within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays, of your verbal report.** The report should be clear, and summarize the information provided verbally, including names, addresses and phone numbers.

**What happens if I do not report?**

According to the statute, anyone who is required to report suspected abuse or neglect and fails to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**What if I report suspected abuse and I'm wrong? Can I be sued?**

The statute provides that anyone who reports child abuse or neglect in good faith is immune from civil liability. Your name is confidential, accessible only upon your consent or by court order.

**Where can I obtain further information on the reporting requirements?**

The Minnesota Department of Human Services has prepared a Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters, which can be accessed via their website at <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/childint/programs/ChildProtection/default.htm>. This link can be found by scrolling down the page to the "How do I Report Abuse or Neglect" section and clicking on the "Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: A Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters" link.

Date: September 24, 2004

To: All UMD Faculty

From: Vince Magnuson

Re: Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors Act

As some of you may be aware, Minnesota law requires professionals who work with children to report suspected abuse or neglect. Although this is a personal responsibility, we thought it might be helpful to give you an overview of what the statute provides.

What are my responsibilities?

Specifically, under Minnesota Stat. 626.556, an educator is required to make a child protection report if he or she knows or has reason to believe that a child has been neglected or physically or sexually abused, or has been neglected or physically or sexually abused within the preceding three years.

Who do I report to?

- If you know or suspect the child is in immediate danger or abandoned, call 911 or contact the Duluth Police SCAN Unit at 218-730-5070.

- If the child is not in immediate danger and the alleged perpetrator is a parent, guardian, day-care provider or staff member of a licensed facility, contact either the SCAN Unit or the St. Louis County Social Services Department at 218-726-2012.

- If the child is not in immediate danger and the alleged perpetrator is someone outside the family and not a licensed facility staff person, contact the Duluth Police SCAN Unit at 218-730-5070.

You cannot delegate the responsibility for reporting to anyone else. You alone are responsible for making the report to the county social services or to a law enforcement agency. If you are unsure whether a situation should be reported, contact the St. Louis County Social Services Department.

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[http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/children/documents/pub/DHS\\_id\\_016982.hcsp](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/children/documents/pub/DHS_id_016982.hcsp)

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