

# Child Abuse Reporting Law in Arizona

## Supplement



NOTE: Information on this form has been adapted from the following sources:

- [Report Child Abuse and Neglect](#) – Arizona Department of Child Safety
- [State of Arizona Reporting Procedures](#) – Arizona State Board of Education

### How does the state define child abuse and neglect?

“When a parent, guardian or custodian inflicts or allows the infliction of physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment” (A.R.S. §8-201).

- **Physical abuse** - Any non-accidental physical injury inflicted on a child by a parent, caregiver, or custodian
- **Sexual abuse** – Sexual involvement imposed upon a child by a parent or caregiver
- **Neglect** – Failure to provide for a child’s basic needs; also includes leaving children unsupervised or alone, or failing to provide care for a child’s illness or injury
- **Exploitation** – Using a child for personal or monetary gain (e.g. prostitution, forced labor)
- **Abandonment** – Failure by a parent or caregiver to provide support or maintain contact with a child

### When must abuse or neglect be reported?

A report must be made when an individual develops a **reasonable belief or suspicion** that a child has been abused, neglected, exploited, or abandoned. A report is not an accusation; it is merely a request for an investigation. A reporter is not required to prove abuse has occurred when making a report (A.R.S. § 13-3620).

### Who must report child abuse and neglect?

In the state of Arizona, **any person** who believes that a child is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed must immediately report this information (or cause a report to be made) to a peace officer, the Department of Child Safety, tribal law enforcement, or tribal social services (A.R.S. § 13-3620).

“Any person” includes anyone who has responsibility for the treatment or care of a minor. These individuals include:

- Any physician, physician's assistant, optometrist, dentist, osteopath, chiropractor, podiatrist, behavioral health professional, nurse, psychologist, counselor or social worker who develops a reasonable suspicion of harm in the course of treating a patient.
- Any peace officer, child welfare investigator, child safety worker, member of the clergy, priest or Christian Science practitioner.
- The parent, stepparent or guardian of the minor.
- School personnel (teachers, administrators, nurses, paraprofessionals) or domestic violence victim advocates who develop a reasonable suspicion of harm in the course of their employment.

### How should the report be made?

Call the Arizona Department of Child Safety Child Abuse Hotline at 1-888-767-2445 (1-888-SOS-CHILD), any law enforcement office (state, local, or tribal), or tribal social services. Electronic reporting can be made to the Arizona Department of Child Safety. The following information will be requested with report, if available:

- Name, age, and gender of the child
- Child’s address and home phone number
- A description of the suspected abuse or neglect
- Current condition (physical, mental, emotional) of the child

For additional resources, visit the [Arizona Child and Family Advocacy Network](#).