

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 371**

**Representatives Plummer, Young**

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To amend section 2151.421 of the Revised Code to  
make elected officials mandatory reporters of  
child abuse and neglect.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 2151.421 of the Revised Code be  
amended to read as follows:

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**Sec. 2151.421.** (A) (1) (a) No person described in division  
(A) (1) (b) of this section who is acting in an official or  
professional capacity and knows, or has reasonable cause to  
suspect based on facts that would cause a reasonable person in a  
similar position to suspect, that a child under eighteen years  
of age, or a person under twenty-one years of age with a  
developmental disability or physical impairment, has suffered or  
faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound,  
injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably  
indicates abuse or neglect of the child shall fail to  
immediately report that knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect  
to the entity or persons specified in this division. Except as  
otherwise provided in this division or section 5120.173 of the  
Revised Code, the person making the report shall make it to the  
public children services agency or a peace officer in the county  
in which the child resides or in which the abuse or neglect is

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occurring or has occurred. If the person making the report is a 22  
peace officer, the officer shall make it to the public children 23  
services agency in the county in which the child resides or in 24  
which the abuse or neglect is occurring or has occurred. In the 25  
circumstances described in section 5120.173 of the Revised Code, 26  
the person making the report shall make it to the entity 27  
specified in that section. 28

(b) Division (A)(1)(a) of this section applies to any 29  
person who is an attorney; health care professional; 30  
practitioner of a limited branch of medicine as specified in 31  
section 4731.15 of the Revised Code; licensed school 32  
psychologist; independent marriage and family therapist or 33  
marriage and family therapist; coroner; administrator or 34  
employee of a child care center; administrator or employee of a 35  
residential camp, child day camp, or private, nonprofit 36  
therapeutic wilderness camp; administrator or employee of a 37  
certified child care agency or other public or private children 38  
services agency; school teacher; school employee; school 39  
authority; peace officer; humane society agent; dog warden, 40  
deputy dog warden, or other person appointed to act as an animal 41  
control officer for a municipal corporation or township in 42  
accordance with state law, an ordinance, or a resolution; 43  
person, other than a cleric, rendering spiritual treatment 44  
through prayer in accordance with the tenets of a well- 45  
recognized religion; employee of a county department of job and 46  
family services who is a professional and who works with 47  
children and families; superintendent or regional administrator 48  
employed by the department of youth services; superintendent, 49  
board member, or employee of a county board of developmental 50  
disabilities; investigative agent contracted with by a county 51  
board of developmental disabilities; employee of the department 52

of developmental disabilities; employee of a facility or home 53  
that provides respite care in accordance with section 5123.171 54  
of the Revised Code; employee of an entity that provides 55  
homemaker services; employee of a qualified organization as 56  
defined in section 2151.90 of the Revised Code; a host family as 57  
defined in section 2151.90 of the Revised Code; foster 58  
caregiver; a person performing the duties of an assessor 59  
pursuant to Chapter 3107. or 5103. of the Revised Code; third 60  
party employed by a public children services agency to assist in 61  
providing child or family related services; court appointed 62  
special advocate; or guardian ad litem. 63

(c) If two or more health care professionals, after 64  
providing health care services to a child, determine or suspect 65  
that the child has been or is being abused or neglected, the 66  
health care professionals may designate one of the health care 67  
professionals to report the abuse or neglect. A single report 68  
made under this division shall meet the reporting requirements 69  
of division (A) (1) of this section. 70

(2) Except as provided in division (A) (3) of this section, 71  
an attorney, physician, or advanced practice registered nurse is 72  
not required to make a report pursuant to division (A) (1) of 73  
this section concerning any communication the attorney, 74  
physician, or advanced practice registered nurse receives from a 75  
client or patient in an attorney-client, physician-patient, or 76  
advanced practice registered nurse-patient relationship, if, in 77  
accordance with division (A) or (B) of section 2317.02 of the 78  
Revised Code, the attorney, physician, or advanced practice 79  
registered nurse could not testify with respect to that 80  
communication in a civil or criminal proceeding. 81

(3) The client or patient in an attorney-client, 82

physician-patient, or advanced practice registered nurse-patient 83  
relationship described in division (A)(2) of this section is 84  
deemed to have waived any testimonial privilege under division 85  
(A) or (B) of section 2317.02 of the Revised Code with respect 86  
to any communication the attorney, physician, or advanced 87  
practice registered nurse receives from the client or patient in 88  
that relationship, and the attorney, physician, or advanced 89  
practice registered nurse shall make a report pursuant to 90  
division (A)(1) of this section with respect to that 91  
communication, if all of the following apply: 92

(a) The client or patient, at the time of the 93  
communication, is a child under eighteen years of age or is a 94  
person under twenty-one years of age with a developmental 95  
disability or physical impairment. 96

(b) The attorney, physician, or advanced practice 97  
registered nurse knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect based 98  
on facts that would cause a reasonable person in similar 99  
position to suspect that the client or patient has suffered or 100  
faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, 101  
injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably 102  
indicates abuse or neglect of the client or patient. 103

(c) The abuse or neglect does not arise out of the 104  
client's or patient's attempt to have an abortion without the 105  
notification of her parents, guardian, or custodian in 106  
accordance with section 2151.85 of the Revised Code. 107

(4) (a) No cleric and no person, other than a volunteer, 108  
designated by any church, religious society, or faith acting as 109  
a leader, official, or delegate on behalf of the church, 110  
religious society, or faith who is acting in an official or 111  
professional capacity, who knows, or has reasonable cause to 112

believe based on facts that would cause a reasonable person in a 113  
similar position to believe, that a child under eighteen years 114  
of age, or a person under twenty-one years of age with a 115  
developmental disability or physical impairment, has suffered or 116  
faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, 117  
injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably 118  
indicates abuse or neglect of the child, and who knows, or has 119  
reasonable cause to believe based on facts that would cause a 120  
reasonable person in a similar position to believe, that another 121  
cleric or another person, other than a volunteer, designated by 122  
a church, religious society, or faith acting as a leader, 123  
official, or delegate on behalf of the church, religious 124  
society, or faith caused, or poses the threat of causing, the 125  
wound, injury, disability, or condition that reasonably 126  
indicates abuse or neglect shall fail to immediately report that 127  
knowledge or reasonable cause to believe to the entity or 128  
persons specified in this division. Except as provided in 129  
section 5120.173 of the Revised Code, the person making the 130  
report shall make it to the public children services agency or a 131  
peace officer in the county in which the child resides or in 132  
which the abuse or neglect is occurring or has occurred. In the 133  
circumstances described in section 5120.173 of the Revised Code, 134  
the person making the report shall make it to the entity 135  
specified in that section. 136

(b) Except as provided in division (A) (4) (c) of this 137  
section, a cleric is not required to make a report pursuant to 138  
division (A) (4) (a) of this section concerning any communication 139  
the cleric receives from a penitent in a cleric-penitent 140  
relationship, if, in accordance with division (C) of section 141  
2317.02 of the Revised Code, the cleric could not testify with 142  
respect to that communication in a civil or criminal proceeding. 143

(c) The penitent in a cleric-penitent relationship 144  
described in division (A) (4) (b) of this section is deemed to 145  
have waived any testimonial privilege under division (C) of 146  
section 2317.02 of the Revised Code with respect to any 147  
communication the cleric receives from the penitent in that 148  
cleric-penitent relationship, and the cleric shall make a report 149  
pursuant to division (A) (4) (a) of this section with respect to 150  
that communication, if all of the following apply: 151

(i) The penitent, at the time of the communication, is a 152  
child under eighteen years of age or is a person under twenty- 153  
one years of age with a developmental disability or physical 154  
impairment. 155

(ii) The cleric knows, or has reasonable cause to believe 156  
based on facts that would cause a reasonable person in a similar 157  
position to believe, as a result of the communication or any 158  
observations made during that communication, the penitent has 159  
suffered or faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental 160  
wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature that 161  
reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the penitent. 162

(iii) The abuse or neglect does not arise out of the 163  
penitent's attempt to have an abortion performed upon a child 164  
under eighteen years of age or upon a person under twenty-one 165  
years of age with a developmental disability or physical 166  
impairment without the notification of her parents, guardian, or 167  
custodian in accordance with section 2151.85 of the Revised 168  
Code. 169

(d) Divisions (A) (4) (a) and (c) of this section do not 170  
apply in a cleric-penitent relationship when the disclosure of 171  
any communication the cleric receives from the penitent is in 172  
violation of the sacred trust. 173

(e) As used in divisions (A) (1) and (4) of this section, 174  
"cleric" and "sacred trust" have the same meanings as in section 175  
2317.02 of the Revised Code. 176

(5) (a) An elected official who knows, or has reasonable 177  
cause to suspect based on facts that would cause a reasonable 178  
person in a similar position to suspect, that a child under 179  
eighteen years of age, or a person under twenty-one years of age 180  
with a developmental disability or physical impairment, has 181  
suffered or faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental 182  
wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature that 183  
reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the child shall 184  
immediately report that knowledge, or reasonable cause to 185  
suspect. Except as otherwise provided in this division or 186  
section 5120.173 of the Revised Code, the elected official 187  
making the report shall make it to the public children services 188  
agency or a peace officer in the county in which the child 189  
resides or in which the abuse or neglect is occurring or has 190  
occurred. If the elected official making the report is a peace 191  
officer, the officer shall make it to the public children 192  
services agency in the county in which the child resides or in 193  
which the abuse or neglect is occurring or has occurred. In the 194  
circumstances described in section 5120.173 of the Revised Code, 195  
the elected official making the report shall make it to the 196  
entity specified in that section. 197

(b) An elected official who is also a person described in 198  
division (A) (1) (b) of this section shall make a report pursuant 199  
to division (A) (5) of this section regardless of whether the 200  
elected official is acting in an official or professional 201  
capacity as a person described in division (A) (1) (b) of this 202  
section. 203

(B) Anyone who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect 204  
based on facts that would cause a reasonable person in similar 205  
circumstances to suspect, that a child under eighteen years of 206  
age, or a person under twenty-one years of age with a 207  
developmental disability or physical impairment, has suffered or 208  
faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, 209  
injury, disability, or other condition of a nature that 210  
reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the child may report or 211  
cause reports to be made of that knowledge or reasonable cause 212  
to suspect to the entity or persons specified in this division. 213  
Except as provided in section 5120.173 of the Revised Code, a 214  
person making a report or causing a report to be made under this 215  
division shall make it or cause it to be made to the public 216  
children services agency or to a peace officer. In the 217  
circumstances described in section 5120.173 of the Revised Code, 218  
a person making a report or causing a report to be made under 219  
this division shall make it or cause it to be made to the entity 220  
specified in that section. 221

(C) Any report made pursuant to division (A) or (B) of 222  
this section shall be made forthwith either by telephone, in 223  
person, or electronically and shall be followed by a written 224  
report, if requested by the receiving agency or officer. The 225  
written report shall contain: 226

(1) The names and addresses of the child and the child's 227  
parents or the person or persons having custody of the child, if 228  
known; 229

(2) The child's age and the nature and extent of the 230  
child's injuries, abuse, or neglect that is known or reasonably 231  
suspected or believed, as applicable, to have occurred or of the 232  
threat of injury, abuse, or neglect that is known or reasonably 233

suspected or believed, as applicable, to exist, including any 234  
evidence of previous injuries, abuse, or neglect; 235

(3) Any other information, including, but not limited to, 236  
results and reports of any medical examinations, tests, or 237  
procedures performed under division (D) of this section, that 238  
might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injury, abuse, 239  
or neglect that is known or reasonably suspected or believed, as 240  
applicable, to have occurred or of the threat of injury, abuse, 241  
or neglect that is known or reasonably suspected or believed, as 242  
applicable, to exist. 243

(D) (1) Any person, who is required by division (A) of this 244  
section to report child abuse or child neglect that is known or 245  
reasonably suspected or believed to have occurred, may take or 246  
cause to be taken color photographs of areas of trauma visible 247  
on a child and, if medically necessary for the purpose of 248  
diagnosing or treating injuries that are suspected to have 249  
occurred as a result of child abuse or child neglect, perform or 250  
cause to be performed radiological examinations and any other 251  
medical examinations of, and tests or procedures on, the child. 252

(2) The results and any available reports of examinations, 253  
tests, or procedures made under division (D) (1) of this section 254  
shall be included in a report made pursuant to division (A) of 255  
this section. Any additional reports of examinations, tests, or 256  
procedures that become available shall be provided to the public 257  
children services agency, upon request. 258

(3) If a health care professional provides health care 259  
services in a hospital, children's advocacy center, or emergency 260  
medical facility to a child about whom a report has been made 261  
under division (A) of this section, the health care professional 262  
may take any steps that are reasonably necessary for the release 263

or discharge of the child to an appropriate environment. Before 264  
the child's release or discharge, the health care professional 265  
may obtain information, or consider information obtained, from 266  
other entities or individuals that have knowledge about the 267  
child. Nothing in division (D) (3) of this section shall be 268  
construed to alter the responsibilities of any person under 269  
sections 2151.27 and 2151.31 of the Revised Code. 270

(4) A health care professional may conduct medical 271  
examinations, tests, or procedures on the siblings of a child 272  
about whom a report has been made under division (A) of this 273  
section and on other children who reside in the same home as the 274  
child, if the professional determines that the examinations, 275  
tests, or procedures are medically necessary to diagnose or 276  
treat the siblings or other children in order to determine 277  
whether reports under division (A) of this section are warranted 278  
with respect to such siblings or other children. The results of 279  
the examinations, tests, or procedures on the siblings and other 280  
children may be included in a report made pursuant to division 281  
(A) of this section. 282

(5) Medical examinations, tests, or procedures conducted 283  
under divisions (D) (1) and (4) of this section and decisions 284  
regarding the release or discharge of a child under division (D) 285  
(3) of this section do not constitute a law enforcement 286  
investigation or activity. 287

(E) (1) When a peace officer receives a report made 288  
pursuant to division (A) or (B) of this section, upon receipt of 289  
the report, the peace officer who receives the report shall 290  
refer the report to the appropriate public children services 291  
agency, in accordance with requirements specified under division 292  
(B) (6) of section 2151.4221 of the Revised Code, unless an 293

arrest is made at the time of the report that results in the 294  
appropriate public children services agency being contacted 295  
concerning the possible abuse or neglect of a child or the 296  
possible threat of abuse or neglect of a child. 297

(2) When a public children services agency receives a 298  
report pursuant to this division or division (A) or (B) of this 299  
section, upon receipt of the report, the public children 300  
services agency shall do all of the following: 301

(a) Comply with section 2151.422 of the Revised Code; 302

(b) If the county served by the agency is also served by a 303  
children's advocacy center and the report alleges sexual abuse 304  
of a child or another type of abuse of a child that is specified 305  
in the memorandum of understanding that creates the center as 306  
being within the center's jurisdiction, comply regarding the 307  
report with the protocol and procedures for referrals and 308  
investigations, with the coordinating activities, and with the 309  
authority or responsibility for performing or providing 310  
functions, activities, and services stipulated in the 311  
interagency agreement entered into under section 2151.428 of the 312  
Revised Code relative to that center; 313

(c) Unless an arrest is made at the time of the report 314  
that results in the appropriate law enforcement agency being 315  
contacted concerning the possible abuse or neglect of a child or 316  
the possible threat of abuse or neglect of a child, and in 317  
accordance with requirements specified under division (B)(6) of 318  
section 2151.4221 of the Revised Code, notify the appropriate 319  
law enforcement agency of the report, if the public children 320  
services agency received either of the following: 321

(i) A report of abuse of a child; 322

(ii) A report of neglect of a child that alleges a type of neglect identified by the department of children and youth in rules adopted under division (L) (2) of this section.

(F) No peace officer shall remove a child about whom a report is made pursuant to this section from the child's parents, stepparents, or guardian or any other persons having custody of the child without consultation with the public children services agency, unless, in the judgment of the officer, and, if the report was made by a physician or advanced practice registered nurse, the physician or nurse, immediate removal is considered essential to protect the child from further abuse or neglect. The agency that must be consulted shall be the agency conducting the investigation of the report as determined pursuant to section 2151.422 of the Revised Code.

(G) (1) Except as provided in section 2151.422 of the Revised Code or in an interagency agreement entered into under section 2151.428 of the Revised Code that applies to the particular report, the public children services agency shall investigate, within twenty-four hours, each report of child abuse or child neglect that is known or reasonably suspected or believed to have occurred and of a threat of child abuse or child neglect that is known or reasonably suspected or believed to exist that is referred to it under this section to determine the circumstances surrounding the injuries, abuse, or neglect or the threat of injury, abuse, or neglect, the cause of the injuries, abuse, neglect, or threat, and the person or persons responsible. The investigation shall be made in cooperation with the law enforcement agency and in accordance with the memorandum of understanding prepared under sections 2151.4220 to 2151.4234 of the Revised Code. A representative of the public children services agency shall, at the time of initial contact with the

person subject to the investigation, inform the person of the 354  
specific complaints or allegations made against the person. The 355  
information shall be given in a manner that is consistent with 356  
division (I)(1) of this section and protects the rights of the 357  
person making the report under this section. 358

A failure to make the investigation in accordance with the 359  
memorandum is not grounds for, and shall not result in, the 360  
dismissal of any charges or complaint arising from the report or 361  
the suppression of any evidence obtained as a result of the 362  
report and does not give, and shall not be construed as giving, 363  
any rights or any grounds for appeal or post-conviction relief 364  
to any person. The public children services agency shall report 365  
each case to the uniform statewide automated child welfare 366  
information system that the department of children and youth 367  
shall maintain in accordance with section 5101.13 of the Revised 368  
Code. The public children services agency shall submit a report 369  
of its investigation, in writing, to the law enforcement agency. 370

(2) The public children services agency shall make any 371  
recommendations to the county prosecuting attorney or city 372  
director of law that it considers necessary to protect any 373  
children that are brought to its attention. 374

(H) (1) (a) Except as provided in divisions (H) (1) (b) and 375  
(I) (3) of this section, any person, health care professional, 376  
hospital, institution, school, health department, or agency 377  
shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability for injury, 378  
death, or loss to person or property that otherwise might be 379  
incurred or imposed as a result of any of the following: 380

(i) Participating in the making of reports pursuant to 381  
division (A) of this section or in the making of reports in good 382  
faith, pursuant to division (B) of this section; 383

(ii) Participating in medical examinations, tests, or 384  
procedures under division (D) of this section; 385

(iii) Providing information used in a report made pursuant 386  
to division (A) of this section or providing information in good 387  
faith used in a report made pursuant to division (B) of this 388  
section; 389

(iv) Participating in a judicial proceeding resulting from 390  
a report made pursuant to division (A) of this section or 391  
participating in good faith in a proceeding resulting from a 392  
report made pursuant to division (B) of this section. 393

(b) Immunity under division (H) (1) (a) (ii) of this section 394  
shall not apply when a health care provider has deviated from 395  
the standard of care applicable to the provider's profession. 396

(c) Notwithstanding section 4731.22 of the Revised Code, 397  
the physician-patient privilege shall not be a ground for 398  
excluding evidence regarding a child's injuries, abuse, or 399  
neglect, or the cause of the injuries, abuse, or neglect in any 400  
judicial proceeding resulting from a report submitted pursuant 401  
to this section. 402

(2) In any civil or criminal action or proceeding in which 403  
it is alleged and proved that participation in the making of a 404  
report under this section was not in good faith or participation 405  
in a judicial proceeding resulting from a report made under this 406  
section was not in good faith, the court shall award the 407  
prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and costs and, if a 408  
civil action or proceeding is voluntarily dismissed, may award 409  
reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the party against whom 410  
the civil action or proceeding is brought. 411

(I) (1) Except as provided in divisions (I) (4) and (N) of 412

this section and sections 2151.423 and 2151.4210 of the Revised 413  
Code, a report made under this section is confidential. The 414  
information provided in a report made pursuant to this section 415  
and the name of the person who made the report shall not be 416  
released for use, and shall not be used, as evidence in any 417  
civil action or proceeding brought against the person who made 418  
the report. Nothing in this division shall preclude the use of 419  
reports of other incidents of known or suspected abuse or 420  
neglect in a civil action or proceeding brought pursuant to 421  
division (M) of this section against a person who is alleged to 422  
have violated division (A) (1) of this section, provided that any 423  
information in a report that would identify the child who is the 424  
subject of the report or the maker of the report, if the maker 425  
of the report is not the defendant or an agent or employee of 426  
the defendant, has been redacted. In a criminal proceeding, the 427  
report is admissible in evidence in accordance with the Rules of 428  
Evidence and is subject to discovery in accordance with the 429  
Rules of Criminal Procedure. 430

(2) (a) Except as provided in division (I) (2) (b) of this 431  
section, no person shall permit or encourage the unauthorized 432  
dissemination of the contents of any report made under this 433  
section. 434

(b) A health care professional that obtains the same 435  
information contained in a report made under this section from a 436  
source other than the report may disseminate the information, if 437  
its dissemination is otherwise permitted by law. 438

(3) A person who knowingly makes or causes another person 439  
to make a false report under division (B) of this section that 440  
alleges that any person has committed an act or omission that 441  
resulted in a child being an abused child or a neglected child 442

is guilty of a violation of section 2921.14 of the Revised Code. 443

(4) If a report is made pursuant to division (A) or (B) of 444  
this section and the child who is the subject of the report dies 445  
for any reason at any time after the report is made, but before 446  
the child attains eighteen years of age, the public children 447  
services agency or peace officer to which the report was made or 448  
referred, on the request of the child fatality review board, the 449  
suicide fatality review committee, or the director of health 450  
pursuant to guidelines established under section 3701.70 of the 451  
Revised Code, shall submit a summary sheet of information 452  
providing a summary of the report to the review board or review 453  
committee of the county in which the deceased child resided at 454  
the time of death or to the director. On the request of the 455  
review board, review committee, or director, the agency or peace 456  
officer may, at its discretion, make the report available to the 457  
review board, review committee, or director. If the county 458  
served by the public children services agency is also served by 459  
a children's advocacy center and the report of alleged sexual 460  
abuse of a child or another type of abuse of a child is 461  
specified in the memorandum of understanding that creates the 462  
center as being within the center's jurisdiction, the agency or 463  
center shall perform the duties and functions specified in this 464  
division in accordance with the interagency agreement entered 465  
into under section 2151.428 of the Revised Code relative to that 466  
advocacy center. 467

(5) Not later than five business days after the 468  
determination of a disposition, a public children services 469  
agency shall advise a person alleged to have inflicted abuse or 470  
neglect on a child who is the subject of a report made pursuant 471  
to this section, including a report alleging sexual abuse of a 472  
child or another type of abuse of a child referred to a 473

children's advocacy center pursuant to an interagency agreement 474  
entered into under section 2151.428 of the Revised Code, in 475  
writing of the disposition of the investigation. The agency 476  
shall not provide to the person any information that identifies 477  
the person who made the report, statements of witnesses, or 478  
police or other investigative reports. The written notice of 479  
disposition shall be made in a form designated by the department 480  
of job and family services and shall inform the person of the 481  
right to appeal the disposition. 482

(J) Any report that is required by this section, other 483  
than a report that is made to the state highway patrol as 484  
described in section 5120.173 of the Revised Code, shall result 485  
in protective services and emergency supportive services being 486  
made available by the public children services agency on behalf 487  
of the children about whom the report is made. The agency 488  
required to provide the services shall be the agency conducting 489  
the investigation of the report pursuant to section 2151.422 of 490  
the Revised Code. If a child is determined to be a candidate for 491  
prevention services, the agency also shall make efforts to 492  
prevent neglect or abuse, to enhance a child's welfare, and to 493  
preserve the family unit intact by referring a report for 494  
assessment and provision of services to an agency providing 495  
prevention services. 496

(K) (1) Except as provided in division (K) (4) or (5) of 497  
this section, a person who is required to make a report under 498  
division (A) of this section may make a reasonable number of 499  
requests of the public children services agency that receives or 500  
is referred the report, or of the children's advocacy center 501  
that is referred the report if the report is referred to a 502  
children's advocacy center pursuant to an interagency agreement 503  
entered into under section 2151.428 of the Revised Code, to be 504

provided with the following information: 505

(a) Whether the agency or center has initiated an 506  
investigation of the report; 507

(b) Whether the agency or center is continuing to 508  
investigate the report; 509

(c) Whether the agency or center is otherwise involved 510  
with the child who is the subject of the report; 511

(d) The general status of the health and safety of the 512  
child who is the subject of the report; 513

(e) Whether the report has resulted in the filing of a 514  
complaint in juvenile court or of criminal charges in another 515  
court. 516

(2) (a) A person may request the information specified in 517  
division (K) (1) of this section only if, at the time the report 518  
is made, the person's name, address, and telephone number are 519  
provided to the person who receives the report. 520

(b) When a peace officer or employee of a public children 521  
services agency receives a report pursuant to division (A) or 522  
(B) of this section the recipient of the report shall inform the 523  
person of the right to request the information described in 524  
division (K) (1) of this section. The recipient of the report 525  
shall include in the initial child abuse or child neglect report 526  
that the person making the report was so informed and, if 527  
provided at the time of the making of the report, shall include 528  
the person's name, address, and telephone number in the report. 529

(c) If the person making the report provides the person's 530  
name and contact information on making the report, the public 531  
children services agency that received or was referred the 532

report shall send a written notice via United States mail or 533  
electronic mail, in accordance with the person's preference, to 534  
the person not later than seven calendar days after receipt of 535  
the report. The notice shall provide the status of the agency's 536  
investigation into the report made, who the person may contact 537  
at the agency for further information, and a description of the 538  
person's rights under division (K)(1) of this section. 539

(d) Each request is subject to verification of the 540  
identity of the person making the report. If that person's 541  
identity is verified, the agency shall provide the person with 542  
the information described in division (K)(1) of this section a 543  
reasonable number of times, except that the agency shall not 544  
disclose any confidential information regarding the child who is 545  
the subject of the report other than the information described 546  
in those divisions. 547

(3) A request made pursuant to division (K)(1) of this 548  
section is not a substitute for any report required to be made 549  
pursuant to division (A) of this section. 550

(4) If an agency other than the agency that received or 551  
was referred the report is conducting the investigation of the 552  
report pursuant to section 2151.422 of the Revised Code, the 553  
agency conducting the investigation shall comply with the 554  
requirements of division (K) of this section. 555

(5) A health care professional who made a report under 556  
division (A) of this section, or on whose behalf such a report 557  
was made as provided in division (A)(1)(c) of this section, may 558  
authorize a person to obtain the information described in 559  
division (K)(1) of this section if the person requesting the 560  
information is associated with or acting on behalf of the health 561  
care professional who provided health care services to the child 562

about whom the report was made. 563

(6) If the person making the report provides the person's 564  
name and contact information on making the report, the public 565  
children services agency that received or was referred the 566  
report shall send a written notice via United States mail or 567  
electronic mail, in accordance with the person's preference, to 568  
the person not later than seven calendar days after the agency 569  
closes the investigation into the case reported by the person. 570  
The notice shall notify the person that the agency has closed 571  
the investigation. 572

(L) (1) The director of children and youth shall adopt 573  
rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to 574  
implement this section. The department of children and youth may 575  
enter into a plan of cooperation with any other governmental 576  
entity to aid in ensuring that children are protected from abuse 577  
and neglect. The department shall make recommendations to the 578  
attorney general that the department determines are necessary to 579  
protect children from child abuse and child neglect. 580

(2) The director of children and youth shall adopt rules 581  
in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to identify 582  
the types of neglect of a child that a public children services 583  
agency shall be required to notify law enforcement of pursuant 584  
to division (E) (2) (c) (ii) of this section. 585

(M) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is 586  
liable for compensatory and exemplary damages to the child who 587  
would have been the subject of the report that was not made. A 588  
person who brings a civil action or proceeding pursuant to this 589  
division against a person who is alleged to have violated 590  
division (A) (1) of this section may use in the action or 591  
proceeding reports of other incidents of known or suspected 592

abuse or neglect, provided that any information in a report that 593  
would identify the child who is the subject of the report or the 594  
maker of the report, if the maker is not the defendant or an 595  
agent or employee of the defendant, has been redacted. 596

(N) (1) As used in this division: 597

(a) "Out-of-home care" includes a nonchartered nonpublic 598  
school if the alleged child abuse or child neglect, or alleged 599  
threat of child abuse or child neglect, described in a report 600  
received by a public children services agency allegedly occurred 601  
in or involved the nonchartered nonpublic school and the alleged 602  
perpetrator named in the report holds a certificate, permit, or 603  
license issued by the state board of education under section 604  
3301.071 or Chapter 3319. of the Revised Code. 605

(b) "Administrator, director, or other chief 606  
administrative officer" means the superintendent of the school 607  
district if the out-of-home care entity subject to a report made 608  
pursuant to this section is a school operated by the district. 609

(2) No later than the end of the day following the day on 610  
which a public children services agency receives a report of 611  
alleged child abuse or child neglect, or a report of an alleged 612  
threat of child abuse or child neglect, that allegedly occurred 613  
in or involved an out-of-home care entity, the agency shall 614  
provide written notice of the allegations contained in and the 615  
person named as the alleged perpetrator in the report to the 616  
administrator, director, or other chief administrative officer 617  
of the out-of-home care entity that is the subject of the report 618  
unless the administrator, director, or other chief 619  
administrative officer is named as an alleged perpetrator in the 620  
report. If the administrator, director, or other chief 621  
administrative officer of an out-of-home care entity is named as 622

an alleged perpetrator in a report of alleged child abuse or 623  
child neglect, or a report of an alleged threat of child abuse 624  
or child neglect, that allegedly occurred in or involved the 625  
out-of-home care entity, the agency shall provide the written 626  
notice to the owner or governing board of the out-of-home care 627  
entity that is the subject of the report. The agency shall not 628  
provide witness statements or police or other investigative 629  
reports. 630

(3) No later than three days after the day on which a 631  
public children services agency that conducted the investigation 632  
as determined pursuant to section 2151.422 of the Revised Code 633  
makes a disposition of an investigation involving a report of 634  
alleged child abuse or child neglect, or a report of an alleged 635  
threat of child abuse or child neglect, that allegedly occurred 636  
in or involved an out-of-home care entity, the agency shall send 637  
written notice of the disposition of the investigation to the 638  
administrator, director, or other chief administrative officer 639  
and the owner or governing board of the out-of-home care entity. 640  
The agency shall not provide witness statements or police or 641  
other investigative reports. 642

(0) As used in this section: 643

(1) "Children's advocacy center" and "sexual abuse of a 644  
child" have the same meanings as in section 2151.425 of the 645  
Revised Code. 646

(2) "Elected official" means an elected officer of the 647  
state or any political subdivision, other than a member of a 648  
central committee of a political party. 649

(3) "Health care professional" means an individual who 650  
provides health-related services. "Health care professional" 651

includes all of the following: a physician, including a hospital 652  
intern or resident; a dentist; a podiatrist; a registered nurse, 653  
including such a nurse who is an advanced practice registered 654  
nurse; a licensed practical nurse; a home care nurse; a licensed 655  
psychologist; a speech-language pathologist; an audiologist; a 656  
person engaged in social work or the practice of professional 657  
counseling; and an employee of a home health agency. "Health 658  
care professional" does not include a practitioner of a limited 659  
branch of medicine as specified in section 4731.15 of the 660  
Revised Code, licensed school psychologist, independent marriage 661  
and family therapist or marriage and family therapist, or 662  
coroner. 663

~~(3)~~(4) "Investigation" means the public children services 664  
agency's response to an accepted report of child abuse or 665  
neglect through either an alternative response or a traditional 666  
response. 667

~~(4)~~(5) "Peace officer" means a sheriff, deputy sheriff, 668  
constable, police officer of a township or joint police 669  
district, marshal, deputy marshal, municipal police officer, or 670  
a state highway patrol trooper. 671

**Section 2.** That existing section 2151.421 of the Revised 672  
Code is hereby repealed. 673