

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
State of Nebraska
Provided by
The Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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The following statutes set forth the mandatory reporting of child abuse requirements under Nebraska law. If you have questions about these statutes, please contact an attorney.

28-710. Act, how cited; terms, defined.

(1) Sections 28-710 to 28-727 shall be known and may be cited as the Child Protection Act.

(2) For purposes of the Child Protection Act:

(a) Child abuse or neglect means knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be:

(i) Placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health;

(ii) Cruelly confined or cruelly punished;

(iii) Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care;

(iv) Left unattended in a motor vehicle if such minor child is six years of age or younger;

(v) Sexually abused; or

(vi) Sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions;

(b) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;

(c) Law enforcement agency means the police department or town marshal in incorporated municipalities, the office of the sheriff in unincorporated areas, and the Nebraska State Patrol;

(d) Out-of-home child abuse or neglect means child abuse or neglect occurring in day care homes, foster homes, day care centers, group homes, and other child care facilities or institutions; and

(e) Subject of the report of child abuse or neglect means the person or persons identified in the report as responsible for the child abuse or neglect.

28-711. Child subjected to abuse or neglect; report; contents; toll-free number.

(1) When any physician, medical institution, nurse, school employee, social worker, or other person has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observes such child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident or cause a report of child abuse or neglect to be made to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department on the toll-free number established by subsection (2) of this section. Such report may be made orally by telephone with the caller giving his or her name and address, shall be followed by a written report, and to the extent available shall contain the address and age of the abused or neglected child, the address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected child, the nature and extent of the child abuse or neglect or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such child abuse or neglect, any evidence of previous child abuse or neglect including the nature and extent, and any other information which in the opinion of the person may be helpful in establishing the cause of such child abuse or neglect and the identity of the perpetrator or perpetrators. Law enforcement agencies receiving any reports of child abuse or neglect under this subsection shall notify the department pursuant to section 28-718 on the next working day by telephone or mail.

(2) The department shall establish a statewide toll-free number to be used by any person any hour of the day or night, any day of the week, to make reports of child abuse or neglect. Reports of child abuse or neglect not previously made to or by a law enforcement agency shall be made immediately to such agency by the department.

**Nebraska Health and Human Services
Abuse/Neglect Hotline
1-800-652-1999**

WEB Page: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/cha/chaindex.htm>