

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING LAW- DELAWARE CODE TITLE 16**  
**Health and Safety**  
**Regulatory Provisions Concerning Public Health**  
**CHAPTER 9. ABUSE OF CHILDREN**  
**Subchapter I. Reports and Investigations of Abuse and Neglect; Child Protection**  
**Accountability Commission**

**§ 901. Purpose.**

The child welfare policy of this State shall serve to advance the best interests and secure the safety of the child, while preserving the family unit whenever the safety of the child is not jeopardized. The child welfare policy of this State extends to all child victims, whether victims of intra-familial or extra-familial abuse and neglect. To that end this chapter, among other things:

- (1) Provides for comprehensive and protective services for abused and neglected children;
- (2) Mandates that reports of child abuse or neglect be made to the appropriate authorities; and
- (3) Requires various agencies in Delaware's child protection system to work together to ensure the safety of children who are the subject of reports of abuse or neglect by conducting coordinated investigations, judicial proceedings and family assessments, and by providing necessary services.

This chapter also provides for the protection of children in facilities or organizations primarily concerned with child welfare and care that are required to be licensed under Delaware law by requiring the Delaware Department of Justice to notify any such facility where an employee of, or other person associated with, the facility has been charged with or convicted of an offense involving child sexual abuse.

**§ 903. Reports required.**

Any person, agency, organization or entity who knows or in good faith suspects child abuse or neglect shall make a report in accordance with § 904 of this title. For purposes of this section, "person" shall include, but shall not be limited to, any physician, any other person in the healing arts including any person licensed to render services in medicine, osteopathy or dentistry, any intern, resident, nurse, school employee, social worker, psychologist, medical examiner, hospital, health care institution, the Medical Society of Delaware or law-enforcement agency. In addition to and not in lieu of reporting to the Division of Family Services, any such person may also give oral or written notification of said knowledge or suspicion to any police officer who is in the presence of such person for the purpose of rendering assistance to the child in question or investigating the cause of the child's injuries or condition.

**§ 904. Nature and content of report; to whom made.**

Any report of child abuse or neglect required to be made under this chapter shall be made to the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. An immediate oral report shall be made by telephone or otherwise. Reports and the contents thereof including a written report, if requested, shall be made in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Division, or in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Division.

**EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ fully understand my responsibilities for reporting suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. I have read and understand the provisions of the attached State Law (16 Del. C., Subsections 901, 903-904) and the policies and procedures of the center in this regard:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

