

# Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act

While everyone should be concerned about child abuse and neglect, certain individuals are **required by law** to report suspected instances. In 2012, the Illinois General Assembly (HB3887) added “**personnel of institutions of higher education**, athletic program personnel, and early intervention providers” to the list of “mandated reporters” for State of Illinois Public Act 97-0711 (325 IL CS 5/4).

As such, **all Kankakee Community College faculty, staff, administrators, and student workers are required** to report instances of suspected child abuse and neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline at **1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)**.

## ‘CANTS 22’ form requirement

All KCC employees and student works are **required by law to complete the attached [CANTS 22 form](#)**, acknowledging that you are a mandated reporter. **This form must be returned to HR by Dec. 14, 2012.**

## Educational and training options

KCC is requesting all employees (faculty, administrators, supportive staff, and student workers) to participate in an online training session and/or to attend an information session regarding this requirement.

**Online training** - The Department of Children and Family Services Office of Training and Professional Development offers an online Mandated Reporter training class. It includes:

1. A pre-training assessment (13 multiple-choice questions)
2. 60-90 minutes of self-paced interactive training (can be completed in less time)
3. A post-training assessment (13 multiple-choice questions)
4. A Certificate of Completion

## Online training directions

1. Access the training at

<https://mr.dcfstraining.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action;jsessionid=88910FD8F3A1C3D61B72200AF7975E48>.

2. Click on REGISTER at the top of the page. This will bring you to a registration form. It is self-explanatory. For the question “Which Mandated Reporter Category best fits your role?”, select “Other.” In the next “Specify” box, type in “Higher Education.”

3. Once the registration form is complete, click Register to validate your account.

4. Proceed to the training.

5. Print the Certificate of Completion.

If you log out before completing the entire training, you can log back in and continue later. An email with your login credentials will be sent to the email address provided. It will direct you to the training website to log in again.

**Info sessions with DCFS representative** - Elisabeth Damia, a supervisor with the local Department of Children and Family Services office, will conduct presentations at KCC, with the opportunity for questions and answers. **All employees and student workers are encouraged to attend** one of the five sessions. The dates and times are:

Tuesday, Oct. 23, at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11 a.m.

All of the sessions will be held in the WDC Conference Hall, Room D140.

## General Questions/Answers

### What is an abused or neglected child?

Child abuse is the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caretaker, someone living in his/her home or someone who works with or around children. The mistreatment must cause injury or must put the child at risk of physical injury. Child abuse can be physical (such as burns or broken bones), sexual (such as fondling or incest) or emotional.

### When should KCC employees call for help?

Call the statewide toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline (1-800-252-2873) as soon as possible after having reason to suspect a child has been injured, harmed, or put at risk of physical injury as defined in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. Some examples include:

- If you see someone hitting a child with an object.
- If you see marks on a child's body that do not appear to have been caused by accident.
- If a child tells you that he or she has been harmed by someone.
- If a child appears to be undernourished, is dressed inappropriately for the weather, or is young and has been left alone for over an hour after attempting to locate parent/guardian.

The department will provide you with a form which you must complete and return to the appropriate DCFS field office within 48 hours. If you suspect a child's death may have been caused by abuse or neglect, you must also call your county's coroner or medical examiner.

### What legal protections do KCC employees have when making reports?

People who report alleged child abuse or neglect in good faith cannot be held liable for damages under criminal or civil law. In addition, their names are not given to the person they name as the abuser or to anyone else unless ordered by a hearing officer or judge. Members of the general public may make reports without giving their names.

Mandated reporters who make good faith reports have the same immunity from liability under the law as non-mandated reporters. However, a mandated reporter's failure to report suspected instances of child abuse or neglect to DCFS constitutes a Class A misdemeanor; **simply reporting suspicions to your supervisor does not satisfy legal requirements.**

### What are the penalties for making a false report?

Any person who knowingly transmits a false report commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. A first violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a term of imprisonment for up to one year, or by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or by both such term and fine. A second or subsequent violation is a Class 4 felony.

### What resources or other materials are available?

To view the public act, visit: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0711&GA=97>

You also can participate in the online training offered and/or attend a session offered by a local DCFS supervisor (see information, above, in the "Educational and training options" section).