

Indiana Child Abuse Reporting

Who do I contact to report an incident in Indiana?

The Department of Child Services or the local law enforcement agency.

DCS Phone: 1-800-800-5556

If you are calling regarding an emergency situation or if you believe the victim is in imminent danger, dial 911 immediately. Follow up by making a report to the hotline above.

How much time do I have to report an incident?

Reports must be made immediately. **Indiana Code 31-33-5-4.**

What is "child abuse or neglect" in Indiana?

"Child abuse or neglect", refers to a child described in IC 31-34-1-1 through IC 31-34-1-11ⁱ, regardless of whether the child needs care, treatment, rehabilitation, or the coercive intervention of a court.

Who is a mandatory reporter in Indiana?

Indiana is a mandatory reporting state; anyone who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect must make a report. **IC 31-33-5-1.**

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Indiana?

Yes. **IC 31-33-5-1.**

Is there an exception for penitential communication in Indiana?

Only in regards to testifying, a report is still required to be made by clergy. **IC 31-32-11-1.**

How is a penitential communication defined?

The phrase "penitential communications" is not used in the Indiana code. Rather, the code lists those persons not required to testify regarding various types of communications. Clergymen are listed regarding confessions, admissions, or confidential communications made to a clergyman in the course of discipline enjoined by the clergyman's church and a confidential communication made to a clergyman in the clergyman's professional character as a spiritual adviser or counselor. **IC 34-46-3-1(3).**

Where can I find Indiana law on child abuse?

<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/laws/2020/ic/titles/031#31-33>

ⁱ (Further details can be found within the code)

Inability, refusal, or neglect of parent, guardian, or custodian to supply child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, or supervision.

Act or omission of parent, guardian, or custodian seriously endangering child's physical or mental health; victim of specified offense.

Victim of specified offense (See code for offenses); living in household with a child victim of a specified offense or adult who committed or is charged with a specified offense.

Victim of human or sexual trafficking.

Parent, guardian, or custodian allowing child's participation in obscene performance.

Parent, guardian, or custodian allowing child to commit sex offense.
Child substantially endangering own or another's health.
Parent, guardian, or custodian failing to participate in school disciplinary proceeding.
Missing child.
Disabled child deprived of necessary nutrition or medical or surgical intervention.
Child born with fetal alcohol syndrome, neonatal abstinence syndrome, or drugs in the child's body.
Risks or injuries arising from use of alcohol, controlled substance, or legend drug by child's mother during pregnancy.