

Nebraska Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting

What circumstances require me to report an incident of child abuse or neglect in Nebraska?

Any person who 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 shall report the incident to law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services. **Child Protection and Family Safety Act 28-711**

Who do I contact?

Call – The Department of Health and Human Services toll-free twenty-four-hour hotline at **(800) 652-1999**

If you think someone is being hurt or is in danger right now, call 911 immediately.

How much time do I have to report an incident?

A report should be made as soon as possible since there is no time referenced in the statute.

How is “child abuse” defined in Nebraska?

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) Placed in a situation to be sexually abused;
- (vi) Placed in a situation to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking of a minor as defined in section [28-830](#) or by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to engage in debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or
- (vii) Placed in a situation to be a trafficking victim as defined in section [28-830](#)

Child Protection and Family Safety Act 28-710

Who is a mandated reporter in Nebraska?

Any physician, any medical institution, any nurse, any school employee, any social worker, the Inspector General appointed under section 28 of the Child Protection and Family Safety Act, or any 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 **Child Protection and Family Safety Act 28-711**

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Nebraska?

Yes, any person who has cause to suspect abuse or neglect is required to make a report to the Department.

Child Protection and Family Safety Act 28-711

Is there an exception for penitential communication in Nebraska?

No.

Child Protection and Family Safety Act 28-714

Where can I find more resources on Nebraska law on child abuse and neglect?

- <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Child-Abuse.aspx>
- <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=28-707>