

PA DeMolay and Pennsylvania Act 126 of 2014

In Pennsylvania (effective December 31, 2014), “an individual **paid or unpaid**; who, on the basis of the individual’s role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity or service, accepts responsibility for a child”, is considered to be a Mandatory Reporter of Child Abuse. This means that all PA DeMolay adult advisors are Mandatory Reporters and are required to report all suspected acts of child abuse whether working with DeMolays or elsewhere in their lives.

Any person who willfully fails to report suspected child abuse commits a crime and is subject to prosecution. Penalties can range from a misdemeanor of the second degree to a felony of the second degree.

Some examples of child abuse are listed on the back of this sheet.

Steps to Take in Reporting a Suspected Case of Child Abuse

If you suspect the child is in imminent danger from abuse, please call 911 IMMEDIATELY.

Mandatory Reporters are encouraged to report suspected cases of child abuse online at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis

1. Log onto www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis and complete the form on the portal (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), **or** you may call ChildLine at **1-800-932-0313** (answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) to report the suspected abuse. This must be done immediately, and by the Mandatory Reporter.
2. If the suspected abuse is DeMolay related, please contact Greg Schaeffer, EO; or Dave Berry, ES.
3. Within 48 hours of the initial report, the Mandatory Reporter MUST:
 - a. Print and fill out a copy of the CY-47 form
 - b. Submit a copy of the form to the local County Office of Children and Youth.
 - c. If DeMolay related, submit a copy of the form to Dave Berry, ES.
 - d. Keep a copy of the form for themselves.

It is not necessary for you to know who the abuser is in order to make a report. You only need to have “a reasonable cause to suspect” child abuse is taking place. Gather as much information as you can about the child, the perpetrator, and the suspected abuse before making your report. The more information you have, the easier it will be to validate the report.

Your name will not be released by any agency associated with the report, and you will be notified of the outcome of your report unless it is found that the child is in need of services not related to abuse.

Anyone making a report is immune from civil or criminal liability, provided the report is made in good faith.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse, according to the CPSL, means intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly doing any of the following:

- Causing bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment to the child through any recent act.
- Causing or substantially contributing to serious mental injury to a child through any act or failure to act or a series of such acts or failures to act.
- Causing sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any act or failure to act.
- Creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- Creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- Causing serious physical neglect of a child.
- Causing the death of a child through any act or failure to act.

Child abuse also includes certain acts in which the act itself constitutes abuse without any resulting injury or condition. These recent acts include any of the following:

- Kicking, biting, throwing, burning, stabbing, or cutting a child in a manner that endangers the child.
- Unreasonably restraining or confining a child, based on consideration of the method, location, or the duration of the restraint or confinement.
- Forcefully shaking a child under one year of age.
- Forcefully slapping or otherwise striking a child under one year of age.
- Interfering with the breathing of a child.
- Causing a child to be present during the operation of a methamphetamine laboratory, provided that the violation is being investigated by law enforcement.
- Leaving a child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who the parent knows or reasonably should have known was required to register as a Tier II or III sexual offender or has been determined to be a sexually violent predator or has been determined to be a sexually violent delinquent child.

"Recent" is defined as an abusive act within two years from the date the report is made to ChildLine. Sexual abuse, serious mental injury, serious physical neglect, and deaths have no time limit.