Mandated Reporter Compliance Document

Diocese of Erie

Effective through June 30, 2027

Pennsylvania State law contains the following provisions regarding the reporting of child abuse by mandated reporters:

The list of adult mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse include: all State-licensed professionals; employees of health care facilities; **school employees**; **members of the clergy or other spiritual leaders; child-care services providers**; social services workers, **any individual (paid or unpaid) who accepts responsibility for a child as part of that individual's role in any regularly scheduled program, activity or service (which could include parishes and schools)** and **any individual who is supervised by any listed mandated reporter and who has direct contact with children.**

The duty to report is triggered when a mandatory reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances: (1) the mandated reporter comes into contact with children during the course of her/his employment or volunteer service in a regularly scheduled program or activity; (2) the mandated reporter is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child; (3) the mandated reporter is affiliated with an agency, institution, school or religious organization that is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child, (4) a person makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable child is a victim of child abuse; or (5) a person over the age of 14 makes a disclosure to the mandated reporter that s/he has perpetrated an act of child abuse.

The child need not personally come before the mandated reporter in order to trigger the mandate to report.

The identity of the perpetrator need not be known, and the mandated reporter will not be obligated to attempt to identify the perpetrator prior to making the report. **No investigation will be carried out by the mandated reporter.**

Mandated reporters who are staff members at any medical facility or any public or private agency or institution or school **are required to make a direct, immediate report of the suspected abuse, either electronically or by phone (1-800-932-0313), to DHS's** (PA Dept. of Human Services) **ChildLine**. They are also to notify the person in charge of the institution. The person in charge must thereafter assume the responsibility to assure the cooperation of that institution in any resulting investigation. If an oral report is made initially, the report must be followed up by a written report within 48 hours. There is no requirement that more than one report of the same abuse be made.

The law provides for severe criminal penalties if it is found that there was knowledge of abuse and it was not reported. All information regarding the report of abuse is to be kept **confidential**, on a need-to-know-basis.

I _____ understand that I am a mandated reporter.
(please print name)

I have read and understand the above information and will comply with Pennsylvania laws regarding the reporting of child abuse.

Signature _____

School/Parish/Institution & City _____

Date_____