



## Children's Justice & Advocacy Report

To promote community responsibility so every Pennsylvania child is protected from child abuse, including sexual abuse.

### In the October 15th Edition:

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- An employee of child care services
- A foster parent

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### Cleaning up recent mandatory reporting changes and adding foster parents to those required to report

[House Bill 435](#) provided a vehicle for some clean up, strengthened protections, and insurance policy with regard to mandatory reporting.

There will now be 15 categories of mandated reporters in Pennsylvania with the addition of foster parents.

[Pending federal legislation introduced by U.S. Senator Bob Casey](#) had state lawmakers aiming to be in compliance should that federal legislation advance.

Casey's Speak Up to Protect Every Abused Kid Act (S. 2343) was introduced after Pennsylvania enacted its comprehensive mandatory reporting changes this spring.

The federal legislation would establish a list of individuals that states must include as mandated reporters, including foster parents. While there does not appear to be immediate

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### Background check bill impacting employees and volunteers on Governor Corbett's desk

The long awaited background check bill has made its way to Governor Corbett's desk.

[House Bill 435](#), which was introduced by Representative Dan Moul, will have a direct impact on paid employees and volunteers.

By the end of the year, employees having contact with children as well as foster and adoptive parents will be required to have completed background checks every 3 years.

Specifically House Bill 435 reaffirms and expands persons required to have background checks including:

## Bill requiring exchange of information between medical practitioners and CYS near completion

[Senate Bill 27](#), which is sponsored by Senator Bob Mensch, creates a new section in the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) related to the exchange of information between certified medical practitioners and children and youth service (CYS) professionals.

The bill is a duller child protection tool now than when compared to how it was introduced.

The bill advances after a comprehensive amendment was crafted this summer and accepted by both House and Senate leaders (as well as physicians who served on the Task

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## Who is a mandated reporter in PA?

Pennsylvania law includes a specific list of adults, who have a legal responsibility to report suspected child abuse to ChildLine – the state’s child abuse reporting hotline (1-800-932-0313). The following 15 categories of adults are mandated reporters:

### 1. A person licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field under the jurisdiction of the Department of State

*NOTE: The Department of State licenses professionals through the following health-related boards:*

- *Chiropractic*
- *Dentistry*
- *Massage Therapy*
- *Medicine*
- *Nursing*
- *Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators*
- *Occupational Therapy*
- *Optometry*
- *Osteopathic Medicine*
- *Pharmacy*
- *Physical Therapy*
- *Podiatry*
- *Psychology*
- *Speech-Language and Hearing Examiners*
- *Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors*

### 2. A medical examiner, coroner or funeral director

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