

# Mandatory Reporting

Mandatory reporting refers to the legal obligations under ss 162, 182 and 184 of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic) and s 67ZA of the Family Law Act 2005 (Cth). Certain professionals are mandated to report child abuse to Child Protection if they form a belief on reasonable grounds that the child is in need of protection from physical or sexual abuse.

Under Victorian legislation, the following professionals are mandated to report:

- registered medical practitioners
- nurses and midwives
- registered teachers, including early childhood teachers
- school principals
- members of the police force.

From 1 March 2019, legislative changes extended mandatory reporting obligations to:

- out-of-home care workers
- early childhood workers
- youth justice workers
- registered psychologists.

Mandatory reporting obligations extend to clergy and ministers of religion, effective from the 10 September 2019.

School counsellors will become 'mandatory reporters' under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* on 31 January 2020.

s 67ZA of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) imposes a mandatory reporting obligation on:

- the Registrar or a Deputy Registrar of a Registry of the Family Court of Australia
- the Registrar or a Deputy Registrar of the Family Court of Western Australia
- a Registrar of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia
- a family consultant
- a family counsellor
- a family dispute resolution practitioner
- an arbitrator
- a lawyer independently representing a child's interests.

## USEFUL RESOURCES

*Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic) s 182 ('Who is a mandatory reporter?').

[www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/vic/consol\\_act/cyafa2005252/s182.html](http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/vic/consol_act/cyafa2005252/s182.html)

*Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic) s 184 ('Mandatory reporting').

[www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/vic/consol\\_act/cyafa2005252/s184.html](http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/vic/consol_act/cyafa2005252/s184.html)

Department of Health and Human Services, *Child protection manual*, Mandatory reporting – advice.

[www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au/advice-and-protocols/advice/intake/mandatory-reporting](http://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au/advice-and-protocols/advice/intake/mandatory-reporting)

*Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) s 67ZA ('Where member of the Court personnel, family counsellor, family dispute resolution practitioner or arbitrator suspects child abuse etc.').

[http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol\\_act/fla1975114/s67za.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/fla1975114/s67za.html)

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*The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity  
of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.*