

Tennessee Area 52 Requirements for AI-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service

These requirements are to be used in conjunction with the G34 Alateen Safety Guidelines and the Alateen guidelines contained in the current AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.

Area 52 Safety and Behavioral Requirements:

The Tennessee Area (Area 52) and districts within Tennessee Area 52 will only recognize an Alateen Group Sponsor and/or AI-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service who has met these minimum requirements. An Alateen group will not be listed at the World Service Office or on district or area meetings lists without its Alateen Group Sponsors/AI-Anon Member Involved in Alateen service obtaining Area approval. **Requirements D through G are for Alateen members as well as AI-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service.**

- A. Every AI-Anon member involved with Alateen service must:
1. Be an AI-Anon member currently attending at least one AI-Anon meeting weekly and have a personal sponsor.
 2. Be at least 21 years old.
 3. Have at least two consecutive years of active attendance in AI-Anon excluding any time spent in Alateen in Area 52. If prospective AMIAS has been an AMIAS in another area and WSO confirms this and references have checked out this may be waived.
 4. Not have been convicted of a felony, and not have been charged with child abuse or any other inappropriate sexual behavior, and not have demonstrated emotional problems which could result in harm to Alateen members.
 5. Complete the Tennessee Request for Alateen Service form along with the AI-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service form provided by World Service Office & the background release form.
 6. Pass a background check performed by a company licensed to do background checks in the State of Tennessee.
 7. Participate in one (1) Alateen Group Sponsor/AI-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service information workshop each year. The Area Alateen Coordinator will provide or make arrangements for information workshop, including, but not limited to, WSO Alateen training modules, WSO Alateen Guidelines and Tennessee child abuse laws.
 8. Submit a request each year for a background check (Tennessee Request for Alateen Service form) to the Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person (TAAPP).
 9. Participate in the annual recertification process for AI-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service in the Tennessee Area 52.
 10. Familiarize and abide by the state and local laws regarding child abuse.
 11. Attend the Alateen meeting as scheduled or arrange for a certified substitute.
 12. Provide a safe meeting place.
 13. Encourage the participation of Alateen members in District and Area AI-Anon functions.
 14. Respect and protect the Alateen members' anonymity.
 15. Agree to step down if asked, for any reason, regarding the safety of the Alateen members or sponsor. The safety of the teens is paramount and stepping down is not considered an admission of any wrongdoing.

16. Agree to step down if they are unable or unwilling to follow the Al-Anon/ Alateen spiritual principles.

- B. In order for an Alateen meeting to begin in any district, there must be a registered Al-Anon group which is willing to support the Alateen group. Exceptions to this would include in school or institution meetings. The DR is encouraged to attend each Alateen group in his/her district at least once during his/her term.
- C. The Tennessee Area supports the TN Alateen Chatters meeting in the Al-Anon Family Groups Mobile App which is administered by the WSO. It is the responsibility of the AAC (Area Alateen Coordinator) to ensure the AMIAS supporting the meeting are trained in the functionality of the virtual platform. AMIAS participating in this meeting abide by Area 52 ASBR (Area Safety and Behavioral Requirements).
- D. There must be at least two (2) certified Alateen Group Sponsors and/or Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service at every Alateen meeting. When there are not two (2) certified Alateen Group Sponsors and/or Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service, Alateens are to attend the Al-Anon meeting.
- E. Overt or covert sexual interaction between any adult and Alateen member or between Alateen members is strictly prohibited before, during or after any Alateen activity.
- F. Conduct contrary to applicable laws is prohibited.
- G. All Alateens attending assemblies or workshops must have a signed parent permission form and a medical care form when applicable.

Parental Permission and Medical Care, when applicable. The Tennessee Alateen Permission Form must be signed by a parent/guardian whenever any Alateen member is transported to/from any Alateen meeting or function. A copy of the consent form must be kept in the possession of the person who is providing the transportation or acting as chaperone.

Definition of an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS):

An AMIAS is an Al-Anon member who is directly responsible for Alateens while being of service to Alateen. This includes, but is not limited to: Alateen group sponsors, chaperones for Alateens, drivers transporting Alateens, and substitute Alateen Group Sponsors. Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service will be certified annually through the Tennessee Area 52 and information entered into the World Service Office database.

Process to become certified as an Alateen Group Sponsor and/or an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service must:

1. Contact the Group Representative, District Representative, District Alateen Coordinator, Area Alateen Coordinator or Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person to express interest in working with Alateens.
2. Meet and agree to Tennessee Area 52 Requirements for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service.
3. Complete the background check authorization, Tennessee Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service form and the WSO AMIAS form, including all necessary signatures and payment for the background check.
4. The Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person will coordinate the background check process with the AMIAS and the company licensed to do background checks in the State of Tennessee and contact the Al-Anon references.
5. Once the results of the background check are returned to the Tennessee Area Alateen Processor and the applicant passes the background check the AMIAS form will be signed by the Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person and transmitted to the WSO for registration.
6. The WSO processes the form and issues an I.D. number if member has no current id# on file already.
7. Participate in at least one Alateen Group Sponsor Information Workshop.
8. Annually, the Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person will distribute recertification forms to each Alateen Group Sponsor/Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service. These must be completed, signed and returned to the Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person for annual recertification. The Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person will update the WSO database with any changes. This will be done by the annual recertifying date set by the WSO.

Responsibilities of an Alateen Group Sponsor or Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service: .

1. Meet Tennessee Area 52 Requirements for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service. Complete the background check and application process for becoming a certified Alateen Group Sponsor/Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service.
2. Have a working knowledge of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.
3. Attend your Alateen meeting as scheduled or arrange for a certified Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service to substitute if you can't be there.
4. Use only conference approved material at meetings to keep the Alateen focus, and be familiar with Alateen literature.
5. Read the current *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (which is available online at WSO members' website) and become familiar with the Alateen-information contained in it.
6. Guide Alateens toward working the Twelve Steps for personal recovery.
7. Uphold the established behavior requirements Alateens set for their meeting.
8. Respect and protect the Alateens' anonymity.
9. Report child abuse in accordance with Tennessee state law.
10. Provide a safe meeting place.
11. Participate in AMIAS online information workshop.
12. Keep group information up-to-date, notifying District and Area of any changes in sponsors, meeting time and date or location.
13. Help Alateens take responsibility for their group.
14. Encourage the participation of Alateens at District meetings and Al-Anon functions.
15. Get signed medical, permission, and travel forms necessary if transporting Alateen members, or if Alateens will be attending an out-of-town event.
16. Parents are advised not to sponsor/co-sponsor an Alateen group that their child attends.
17. Alateen Personal Sponsors. **Alateen members sponsor each other.**

Removal of Alateen Group Sponsor/Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service:

1. An Alateen group may request removal/change in sponsorship by group conscience vote. After a vote is taken, the supporting Al-Anon group's Group Representative (GR) takes the request to the Al-Anon group for resolution.
2. When a problem with a group and/or sponsor arises that cannot be resolved at the group level, Alateens or Al-Anon members may go to the Area Alateen Coordinator, District Alateen Coordinator, or District Representative to assist in resolution of the problem.
3. The Area Alateen Coordinator, as required, shall form a committee to review any alleged violations of these requirements, with the exception of Tennessee child abuse laws, which will be reported to and handled by the proper authorities. The committee shall include the Area Alateen Coordinator, the Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person, the District Representative, the District Alateen Coordinator and one other certified Alateen Group Sponsor/Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service. The committee will work with the host Al-Anon group to resolve any violations.
4. The District, after consultation with the committee, has the responsibility to remove any Al-Anon Sponsor/Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service who has displayed inappropriate behavior, is a threat to the unity of the group, district, or area, or no longer meets the requirement for sponsorship.
5. It is suggested that the District use principles above personalities, avoiding gossip, to vote to remove an inappropriate Alateen Group Sponsor/Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service. The Area Alateen Coordinator or District Representative will notify the person who has been removed.
6. In cases where the requirements cannot be met, the Area Alateen Coordinator will recommend to the Tennessee Area 52 that the name Alateen be removed from the group.

Who may attend Alateen meetings:

1. Young people whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Alateen meetings are Closed meetings. Any adult attending must be certified by the Area of TN, unless an Alateen group is inviting adults to a special Open meeting.
2. The group's Alateen Group Sponsors or an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service who has been certified by the Tennessee Area 52.
3. Certified Alateen Group Sponsors/Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service working with another Alateen group, with permission from the group.
4. Area or District Alateen Coordinator may attend any meeting, if certified.
5. Area Alateen Process Person may attend any meeting, if certified.
6. District Representatives may attend meetings in their District, as a guest. It is suggested that District Representatives become certified Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service. District Representatives are encouraged to visit each Alateen meeting in their District at least once during their term.
7. An Al-Anon member who is also a member of A.A. may attend an Alateen meeting as a certified Alateen Group Sponsor/Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service by virtue of his/her Al-Anon membership.

Requirements for Group Certification and Area Process:

This is the Tennessee Area 52 process for registration of all Alateen groups in the state.

1. Each group must have two certified sponsors approved by the Area prior to a new meeting forming, or prior to recertification. It is recommended that Alateen groups be held the same night, place and time as Al-Anon meetings.
2. The Alateen Group Sponsors/Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service must meet the Requirements and Responsibilities in these Guidelines, and complete a satisfactory background check.
3. Each new Alateen group is required to register with the Area before registering with the World Service Office (WSO). This involves completing the Alateen Registration/Group Records Change form, the WSO Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) form, the Tennessee Area 52 Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service form and the background check application. All forms should be submitted to the TN Area Alateen Coordinator/ TAAPP. The Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person obtains the background checks, signs the AMIAS form, and transmits the AMIAS form and the Group Registration form to the WSO. The Group will then be registered and given a WSO group number.
4. Each year the Alateen Group Sponsor of record with the WSO will submit a signed WSO group update form to the TN Area Alateen Coordinator/TAAPP. The AMIAS form is only filled out and submitted to the WSO one time.
5. The TN Area Alateen Coordinator will verify yearly that listings from the WSO of all Alateen groups in the Area have met and continue to meet the guidelines. Those groups without forms in by the annual recertifying date set by WSO will not be considered to have met the guidelines, and will not be listed in District, Area or WSO listings.
6. Existing group sponsors who do not complete and submit the yearly forms or who do not pass the subsequent background checks, will be asked to step down. The group will need to find replacement sponsors.
7. Area Alateen Coordinator shall notify the Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person and TN Area 52 Group Records/Website Coordinator as to which groups have not completed the requirements.
8. The Area and Districts must drop listings and references to any group within their area or district which does not comply with the guidelines. The Area Alateen Coordinator and DRs will be responsible for notifying said groups to cease and desist utilizing the Alateen name. Any group that is not in compliance will not continue to be listed with WSO, and is considered disbanded.

Revised 7/2022

AL-ANON MEMBER INVOLVED IN ALATEEN SERVICE QUALIFICATION PAPERS

THE PROCESS FOR REQUESTING CERTIFICATION FOR ALATEEN SERVICE

The Al-Anon member wishing to become involved in Alateen service should complete the Tennessee Area Request for Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service, the World Service Office's Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service form and the online Applicant Disclosure & Release provided by the authorized security agency.

The applicant should have their references sign the Tennessee Area Request form.

All applicable forms are submitted to the TN Area Alateen Coordinator /TAAPP along with the appropriate check amount made out to "TNAFG" for processing.

The TN Area Alateen Coordinator/TAAPP reviews these forms and then proceeds to process them; sending payment to the Area Treasurer. If the applicant's background check is approved, the TAAPP signs the WSO AMIAS form and submits it to WSO. The TAAPP notifies the AMIAS of (re)certification or non-approval when process is completed. (If non-approval, the Area Alateen Coordinator/TAAPP will refer applicant to the agency to provide the reason).

If the applicant disputes the findings of the background check it is up to them to contact the company that performed the background check.

TENNESSEE AREA REQUEST FOR AL-ANON MEMBER INVOLVED IN ALATEEN SERVICE FOR 20_____

The top portion of this form must be completed by the Al-Anon member involved in service to Alateen.
**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION. IF THE FORM IS NOT COMPLETED PROPERLY, IT
WILL NOT BE PROCESSED AND WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU.**

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Years in Al-Anon: _____ I regularly attend the following meeting:

Group Name: _____ Group #: _____

City & State: _____

Name of Group I will sponsor if known: _____

Reasons why I would like to be involved in Alateen service:

(Use the back if more space is required)

I agree to a background check as a part of my request to be involved in Alateen Service in the Tennessee Area 52. I have read and understand the Tennessee Area's Requirements for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service, and agree to abide by them. I will also read the Alateen Service e-Manual for the WSO minimum requirements to be an AMIAS.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

To the best of our knowledge the above named Al-Anon member meets the Tennessee Area's Requirements for Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service: (group representative, DR, long time group member, sponsor, etc.).

Reference #1: _____

Email/or phone # _____

Reference #2 : _____

Email/or phone # _____

Approved by Tennessee Area Alateen Process Person for submission to WSO:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service

*It is required that this form be completed by **all** Al-Anon members involved in service to Alateen.*

(Please Print)

First & Last Name:

Street Address:

City, State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code

Phone:

e-mail:

District

I am in compliance with my area's safety and behavioral requirements and agree to abide by them.

Signature

Date

To the best of my knowledge, the above Al-Anon member meets the area's safety and behavioral requirements.

Authorized Area Signature

Area #

Date

Please Print Name Below:

Each area must certify to the WSO annually that each Al-Anon member involved in Alateen service has met the area's safety and behavioral requirements and has agreed to abide by them.

WSO Assigned ID Number:

For Area Use:

WHEN REQUESTING AMIAS
CERTIFICATION/RECERTIFICATION, SEND THESE
DOCUMENTS TO THE AREA ALATEEN/AAPP
COORDINATOR:

1) WSO- AMIAS Form (Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service)

2) Security Engineers (Formerly known as ICA) provides online background check – no printed form. Applicant will be emailed a link for the background check.

3) Check – payable to Tennessee AFG
New AMIAS - \$40
Renewals - \$25

4) Mail these forms and checks to:
Alateen Area Coordinator
Susan Reaves
6024 Foxland Dr
Brentwood, TN 37027

07/27/22

Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-403

Copy Citation

Current through the 2021 Regular and First, Second, and Third Extraordinary Sessions of the 112th General Assembly.

37-1-403. Reporting of brutality, abuse, neglect or child sexual abuse — Notification to parents of abuse on school grounds or under school supervision — Confidentiality of records.

(a)

(1) Any person who has knowledge of or is called upon to render aid to any child who is suffering from or has sustained any wound, injury, disability, or physical or mental condition shall report such harm immediately if the harm is of such a nature as to reasonably indicate that it has been caused by brutality, abuse or neglect or that, on the basis of available information, reasonably appears to have been caused by brutality, abuse or neglect.

(2) Any such person with knowledge of the type of harm described in this subsection (a) shall report it, by telephone or otherwise, to the:

(A) Judge having juvenile jurisdiction over the child;

(B) Department, in a manner specified by the department, either by contacting a local representative of the department or by utilizing the department's centralized intake procedure, where applicable;

(C) Sheriff of the county where the child resides; or

(D) Chief law enforcement official of the municipality where the child resides.

(3) If any such person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused, the person shall report such information in accordance with § 37-1-605, relative to the sexual abuse of children, regardless of whether such person knows or believes that the child has sustained any apparent injury as a result of such abuse.

(b) The report shall include, to the extent known by the reporter, the name, address, telephone number and age of the child, the name, address, and telephone number of the person responsible for the care of the child, and the facts requiring the report. The report may include any other pertinent information.

(c)

(1) If a law enforcement official or judge becomes aware of known or suspected child abuse, through personal knowledge, receipt of a report, or otherwise, such information shall be reported to the department immediately upon the receipt of such information, and, where appropriate, the child protective team shall be notified to investigate the report for the protection of the child in accordance with this part. Further criminal investigation by such official shall be appropriately conducted in coordination with the team or department to the maximum extent possible.

(2) A law enforcement official or judge who knows or becomes aware of a person who is convicted of a violation of § 55-10-401 and sentenced under § 55-10-402(b), because such person was at the time of the offense accompanied by a child under eighteen (18) years of age, shall report such information, as provided in subdivision (c)(1), and the department shall consider such information to be appropriate for investigation in the same manner as other reports of suspected child abuse or neglect.

(3)

(A) If the department receives information containing references to alleged human trafficking or child pornography which does or does not result in an investigation by the department, the department shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon receipt of such information.

(B) If the department initiates an investigation of severe child abuse, including, but not limited to, child sexual abuse, the department shall notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency immediately upon assignment of such case to a department child protective services worker.

(C) Both the department and law enforcement shall maintain a log of all such reports of such information received and confirmation that the information was sent to the appropriate party, pursuant to this subdivision (c)(3).

(d) Any person required to report or investigate cases of suspected child abuse who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child died as a result of child abuse shall report such suspicion to the appropriate medical examiner. The medical examiner shall accept the report for investigation and shall report the medical examiner's findings, in writing, to the local law enforcement agency, the appropriate district attorney general, and the department. Autopsy reports maintained by the medical examiner shall not be subject to the confidentiality requirements provided for in § 37-1-409.

(e) Reports involving known or suspected institutional child sexual abuse shall be made and received in the same manner as all other reports made pursuant to chapter 478 of the Public Acts of 1985, relative to the sexual abuse of children. Investigations of institutional child sexual abuse shall be conducted in accordance with § 37-1-606.

(f) Every physician or other person who makes a diagnosis of, or treats, or prescribes for any sexually transmitted disease set out in § 68-10-112, or venereal herpes and chlamydia, in children thirteen (13) years of age or younger, and every superintendent or manager of a clinic, dispensary or charitable or penal institution, in which there is a case of any of the diseases, as set out in this subsection (f), in children thirteen (13) years of age or younger shall report the case immediately, in writing on a form supplied by the department of health to that department. If the reported cases are confirmed and if sexual abuse is suspected, the department of health will report the case to the department of children's services. The department of children's services will be responsible for any necessary follow-up.

(g) Every physician or other person who makes an initial diagnosis of pregnancy to an unemancipated minor, and every superintendent or manager of a clinic, dispensary or charitable or penal institution in which there is a case of an unemancipated minor who is determined to be pregnant, shall provide to the minor's parent, if the parent is present, and the minor consents, any readily available written information on how to report to the department of children's services an occurrence of sex abuse that may have resulted in the minor's pregnancy, unless disclosure to the parent would violate the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq., or the regulations promulgated pursuant to the act.

(1) Failure to provide the written information shall not subject a person to the penalty provided by § 37-1-412.

(2) The department of children's services shall provide to the department of health the relevant written information. The department of health shall distribute copies of the written information to all licensees of the appropriate health-related boards through the boards' routinely issued newsletters. At the time of initial licensure, these boards shall also provide new licensees a copy of the relevant written information for distribution pursuant to this subsection (g).

(h) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any hospital, clinic, school, or other organization responsible for the care of children, from developing a specific procedure for internally tracking, reporting, or otherwise monitoring a report made by a member of the organization's staff pursuant to this section, including requiring a member of the organization's staff who makes a report to provide a copy of or notice concerning the report to the organization, so long as the procedure does not inhibit, interfere with, or otherwise affect the duty of a person to make a report as required by subsection (a). Nothing in this section shall prevent staff of a hospital or clinic from gathering sufficient information, as determined by the hospital or clinic, in order to make an appropriate medical diagnosis or to provide and document care that is medically indicated, and is needed to determine whether to report an incident as defined in this part. Those activities shall not interfere with nor serve as a substitute for any investigation by law enforcement officials or the department; provided, that, if any hospital, clinic, school or other organization responsible for the care of children develops a procedure for internally tracking, reporting or otherwise monitoring a report pursuant to this section, the identity of the person who made a report of harm pursuant to this section or § 37-1-605 shall be kept confidential.

(i)

(1) Any school official, personnel, employee or member of the board of education who is aware of a report or investigation of employee misconduct on the part of any employee of the school system that in any way involves known or alleged child abuse, including, but not limited to, child physical or sexual abuse or neglect, shall immediately upon knowledge of such information notify the department of children's services or anyone listed in subdivision (a)(2) of the abuse or alleged abuse.

(2) Notwithstanding § 37-5-107 or § 37-1-612, if a school teacher, school official, or other school personnel has knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that a child who attends the school may be a victim of child abuse or child sexual abuse sufficient to require reporting pursuant to this section, then the school teacher, school official, or other school personnel must follow the procedures outlined in § 49-6-1601.

(3) For purposes of this subsection (i), "school" means any public or privately operated child care agency, as defined in § 71-3-501; child care program, as defined in § 49-1-1102; preschool; nursery school; kindergarten; elementary school; or secondary school.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-412

Copy Citation

Current through the 2021 Regular and First, Second, and Third Extraordinary Sessions of the 112th General Assembly.

37-1-412. Violation of duty to report — Power of juvenile court — Penalty.

(a)

(1) Any person who knowingly fails to make a report required by § 37-1-403 commits an offense.

(2)

(A) A violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class A misdemeanor.

(B) A second or subsequent violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class E felony.

(3) Any person who intentionally fails to make a report required by § 37-1-403 commits a Class E felony.

(b)

(1) A juvenile court having reasonable cause to believe that a person is guilty of violating this section may have the person brought before the court either by summons or by warrant. If the defendant pleads not guilty, the juvenile court judge shall bind the defendant over to the grand jury.

(2) If the defendant pleads guilty to a first offense under subdivision (a)(1) and waives, in writing, indictment, presentment, grand jury investigation, and trial by jury, the juvenile court judge shall sentence the defendant with a fine not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-413

Copy Citation

Current through the 2021 Regular and First, Second, and Third Extraordinary Sessions of the 112th General Assembly.

37-1-413. False reporting of child sexual abuse or false accusation that a child has sustained any wound, injury, disability or physical or mental condition caused by brutality, abuse or neglect — Penalty.

Any person who either verbally or by written or printed communication knowingly and maliciously reports, or causes, encourages, aids, counsels or procures another to report, a false accusation of child sexual abuse or false accusation that a child has sustained any wound, injury, disability or physical or mental condition caused by brutality, abuse or neglect commits a Class E felony.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-605

Copy Citation

Current through the 2021 Regular and First, Second, and Third Extraordinary Sessions of the 112th General Assembly.

37-1-605. Reports of known or suspected child sexual abuse — Investigations — Notification to parents of abuse on school grounds or while under school supervision — Confidentiality of records.

(a) Any person including, but not limited to, any:

- (1)** Physician, osteopathic physician, medical examiner, chiropractor, nurse or hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of persons;
- (2)** Health or mental health professional other than one listed in subdivision (1);
- (3)** Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing;
- (4)** School teacher or other school official or personnel;
- (5)** Judge of any court of the state;
- (6)** Social worker, day care center worker, or other professional child care, foster care, residential or institutional worker;
- (7)** Law enforcement officer;
- (8)** Authority figure at a community facility, including any facility used for recreation or social assemblies, for educational, religious, social, health, or welfare purposes, including, but not limited to, facilities operated by schools, the boy or girl scouts, the YMCA or YWCA, the boys and girls club, or church or religious organizations; or
- (9)** Neighbor, relative, friend or any other person;

who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department in the manner prescribed in subsection (b).

(b)

(1) Each report of known or suspected child sexual abuse pursuant to this section shall be made immediately to the local office of the department responsible for the investigation of reports made pursuant to this section or to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction or to the office of the sheriff or the chief law enforcement official of the municipality where the child resides. Each report of known or suspected child sexual abuse occurring in a facility licensed by the department of mental health and substance abuse services, as defined in § 33-2-403, or any hospital, shall also be made to the local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where such offense occurred. In addition to those procedures provided by this part, § 37-1-405 shall also apply to all cases reported hereunder.

(2) If a law enforcement official or judge becomes aware of known or suspected child sexual abuse, through personal knowledge, receipt of a report or otherwise, such information shall be reported to the department immediately and the child protective team shall be notified to investigate the report for the protection of the child in accordance with this part. Further criminal investigation by such official shall be appropriately conducted.

(3) Reports involving known or suspected institutional child sexual abuse shall be made and received in the same manner as all other reports made pursuant to this section.

(c) Any person required to report or investigate cases of suspected child sexual abuse who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child died as a result of child sexual abuse shall report such suspicion to the appropriate medical examiner. The medical examiner shall accept the report for investigation and shall report the medical examiner's findings, in writing, to the local law enforcement agency, the appropriate district attorney general, and the department. Autopsy reports maintained by the medical examiner shall not be subject to the confidentiality requirements provided for in § 37-1-612.

(d)

(1) Notwithstanding § 37-5-107 or § 37-1-612, if a school teacher, school official, or other school personnel has knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that a child who attends the school may be a victim of child abuse or child sexual abuse sufficient to require reporting pursuant to this section, then the school teacher, school official, or other school personnel must follow the procedures outlined in § 49-6-1601.

(2) For purposes of this subsection (d), "school" means any public or privately operated child care agency, as defined in § 71-3-501; child care program, as defined in § 49-1-1102; preschool; nursery school; kindergarten; elementary school; or secondary school.