

HOUSE BILL No. 2533

By Representatives O'Neal, Rubin, Alford, Arpke, Billinger, Calloway, Cassidy, Collins, Crum, DeGraaf, Fawcett, Finney, Garber, Goico, Gonzalez, Goodman, Grange, Gregory, Hedke, Hermanson, Hill, Hoffman, Howell, Huebert, Kelly, Kiegerl, Kleeb, LeDoux, Montgomery, Moxley, O'Hara, Patton, Peck, Pottorff, Ryckman, Scapa, Seiwert, Smith, Suellentrop, Trimmer and K. Wolf

1-25

1 AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to mandatory reporting
2 of suspected child abuse; amending K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 38-2223 and
3 repealing the existing section.

4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 38-2223 is hereby amended to read as
7 follows: 38-2223. (a) ~~Persons making reports.~~ (1) *Failure to report abuse*
8 *is knowingly failing to report any suspected physical, mental or emotional*
9 *abuse or neglect of a child by any person described in subsection (c).*

10 (b) *Failure to report sexual abuse is knowingly failing to report any*
11 *suspected sexual abuse of a child by any person as described in subsection*
12 *(c).*

13 (c) When any of the following persons has reason to suspect that a
14 child has been ~~harmed as a result of the~~ *victim* of physical, mental or
15 emotional abuse or neglect or sexual abuse, the person shall report the
16 matter promptly as provided in subsections ~~(b) and (e); (e) and (f):~~

17 (A) (1) The following persons providing medical care or treatment:

18 Persons licensed to practice the healing arts, dentistry and optometry;
19 persons engaged in postgraduate training programs approved by the state
20 board of healing arts; licensed professional or practical nurses; and chief
21 administrative officers of medical care facilities;

22 ~~(B)~~ (2) the following persons licensed by the state to provide mental
23 health services: Licensed psychologists, licensed masters level
24 psychologists, licensed clinical psychotherapists, licensed social workers,
25 licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical marriage and
26 family therapists, licensed professional counselors, licensed clinical
27 professional counselors and registered alcohol and drug abuse counselors;

28 ~~(C) teachers, school administrators or other employees of an~~
29 ~~educational institution which the child is attending and~~

30 (3) *any employee or administrator, who works in a position of authority over minors in an*
official capacity, of any public or private

31 ~~educational institution in the state which the child is attending or which offers a program or event in~~
which the child is participating, including, but not limited to:

32 *Elementary schools, secondary schools, technical colleges, community*

1 colleges, municipal universities and universities;
2 (4) persons licensed by the secretary of health and environment or
3 the secretary of social and rehabilitation services to provide child care
4 services or foster family placement or the employees of persons so
5 licensed at the place where the child care services or foster family
6 placement are being provided to the child; and
7 ~~(D)~~ (5) firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, law
8 enforcement officers, juvenile intake and assessment workers, court
9 services officers and community corrections officers, case managers
10 appointed under K.S.A. 23-1001 *et seq.*, and amendments thereto, and
11 mediators appointed under K.S.A. 23-602, and amendments thereto; and
12 ~~(E)~~ (6) any person employed by or who works as a volunteer for any
13 organization, whether for profit or not-for-profit, that provides
14 recreational services to children or social services to pregnant teenagers,
15 including, but not limited to, counseling, adoption services and pregnancy
16 education and maintenance;
17 (7) any person employed by or who works as a volunteer for a
18 recognized church or religious denomination; and
19 (8) any employee, as defined in K.S.A. 75-6102, and amendments
20 thereto, of the state who works in a position of authority over minors in an
21 official capacity.
22 ~~(2)~~ (d) In addition to the reports required under subsection ~~(a)(4)~~ (c),
23 any person who has reason to suspect that a child may be a child in need of
24 care may report the matter as provided in subsection ~~(b)~~ and ~~(e)~~ (e) and (f).
25 ~~(b) Form of report. (1)~~
26 (e) (1) The report may be made orally and shall be followed by a
27 written report if requested. Every report shall contain, if known: The
28 names and addresses of the child and the child's parents or other persons
29 responsible for the child's care; the location of the child if not at the child's
30 residence; the child's gender, race and age; the reasons why the reporter
31 suspects the child may be a child in need of care; if abuse or neglect or
32 sexual abuse is suspected, the nature and extent of the harm to the child,
33 including any evidence of previous harm; and any other information that
34 the reporter believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the harm
35 and the identity of the persons responsible for the harm.
36 (2) When reporting a suspicion that a child may be in need of care,
37 the reporter shall disclose protected health information freely and
38 cooperate fully with the secretary and law enforcement throughout the
39 investigation and any subsequent legal process.
40 ~~(c) To whom made.~~
41 (f) Reports made pursuant to this section shall be made to the
42 secretary, except as follows:
43 (1) When the department of social and rehabilitation services is not

1 open for business, reports shall be made to the appropriate law
2 enforcement agency. On the next day that the department is open for
3 business, the law enforcement agency shall report to the department any
4 report received and any investigation initiated pursuant to K.S.A. 2011
5 Supp. 38-2226, and amendments thereto. The reports may be made orally
6 or, on request of the secretary, in writing.

7 (2) Reports of child abuse or neglect occurring in an institution
8 operated by the secretary of social and rehabilitation services or the
9 commissioner of juvenile justice shall be made to the attorney general. All
10 other reports of child abuse or neglect by persons employed by or of
11 children of persons employed by the department of social and
12 rehabilitation services shall be made to the appropriate law enforcement
13 agency.

14 ~~(d) Death of child. Any person who is required by this section to~~
15 ~~report a suspicion that a child is in need of care and who knows of~~
16 ~~information relating to the death of a child shall immediately notify the~~
17 ~~coroner as provided by K.S.A. 22a-242, and amendments thereto.~~

18 ~~(e) Violations. (1) Willful and knowing failure to make a report~~
19 ~~required by this section is a class B misdemeanor. It is not a defense that~~
20 ~~another mandatory reporter made a report.~~

21 ~~(g) It is not a defense that another person made a report, unless law enforcement has been notified,~~
22 ~~or that a~~

23 ~~person did not make a report for fear of reprisal or any other consequence~~
24 ~~of making such report.~~

25 ~~(h) (1) Failure to report abuse as defined in subsection (a) is a class~~

26 ~~B misdemeanor.~~
27 ~~(2) Failure to report sexual abuse as defined in subsection (b) is a~~

28 ~~(2) (i) Intentionally preventing or interfering with the making of a~~
29 ~~report required by this section is a class B misdemeanor severity level 8,~~
30 ~~nonperson felony.~~

31 ~~(3) Any person who willfully and knowingly makes~~

32 ~~(j) Making a false report pursuant to this section or makes a report~~
33 ~~that such person knows lacks factual foundation is guilty of with the intent~~
34 ~~to harm, harass or defame any person is a class B misdemeanor.~~

35 ~~(f) Immunity from liability.~~

36 (k) Anyone who, without malice, participates in the making of a
37 report to the secretary or a law enforcement agency relating to a suspicion
38 that a child may be a child in need of care or who participates in any
39 activity or investigation relating to the report or who participates in any
40 judicial proceeding resulting from the report shall have immunity from any
41 civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

42 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 38-2223 is hereby repealed.

43 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its

1 publication in the statute book.

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