

## APPENDIX IV

### WISCONSIN LAW

2013-2014 Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 48.981, Abuse, including sexual abuse or neglected children (given in part, and paraphrased)

#### PERSONS REQUIRED TO REPORT

A physician, coroner, medical examiner, nurse, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, acupuncturist, or other medical or mental health professional, social worker, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, public assistance worker, including a financial and employment planner, as defined in s. 49.141 (1) (d), school teacher, school administrator, school counselor, or other school employee, mediator under s. 767.405, child care worker in a child care center, group home, or residential care center for children and youth, child care provider, alcohol or other drug abuse counselor, member of the treatment staff employed by or working under contract with a county department under s. 46.23, 51.42 or 51.437, physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, occupational therapist, dietitian, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, emergency medical technician, first responder, police or law enforcement officer having reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen in the course of professional duties has been abused or neglected or has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect of the child will occur shall, except as provided under sub. (2m), report as provided in sub. (3).

A member of the clergy shall report as provided in sub. (3) if the member of the clergy has reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen by the member of the clergy in the course of his or her professional duties has been abused as defined in s. 48.02 (1) (b) to (f) [note, this is limited to sexual abuse, not physical abuse or neglect], or has been threatened with such abuse, and the abuse of the child will likely occur.

A member of the clergy shall report as provided in sub. (3) if the member of the clergy has reasonable cause, based on observations made or information that he or she receives, to suspect that a member of the clergy has abused a child, as defined in s. 48.02 (1) (b) to (f) [note, this is limited to sexual abuse, not physical abuse or neglect], or threatened a child with such abuse and the abuse of the child will likely occur.

A member of the clergy is not required to report child abuse information that he or she receives solely through confidential communications made to him or her privately or in a confessional setting if he or she is authorized to hear or is accustomed to hearing such communications and, under the disciplines, tenets, or traditions of his or her religion, has a duty or is expected to keep those communications secret.

Any person not otherwise specified here, including an attorney, who has reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected or who has reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect of the child will occur may report as provided in sub. (3).

*Referral of report.* A person required to report under sub. (2) shall immediately inform, by telephone or personally, the county department or, in a county having a population of 500,000 or more, the department or a licensed child welfare agency under contract with the department or the sheriff or city, village, or town police department of the facts and circumstances contributing to a suspicion of child abuse or neglect or to a belief that abuse or neglect will occur.