**Connecticut**

**Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect**
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**Physical Abuse**
**Citation:** Gen. Stat. § 46b-120
The term 'abused' means that a child or youth:
- Has been inflicted with physical injury or injuries by other than accidental means
- Has injuries that are at variance with the history given of them
- Is in a condition that is the result of maltreatment, that includes, but is not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation or exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment, or cruel punishment

**Neglect**
**Citation:** Gen. Stat. § 46b-120
A child or youth may be found 'neglected' who:
- Has been abandoned
- Is being denied proper care and attention physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally
- Is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances, or associations injurious to the well-being of the child or youth
- Has been abused

A child or youth may be found 'uncared for' who is homeless or whose home cannot provide the specialized care that the physical, emotional, or mental condition of the child requires.

**Sexual Abuse/Exploitation**
**Citation:** Gen. Stat. § 46b-120
The term 'abuse' includes sexual molestation or exploitation.

**Emotional Abuse**
**Citation:** Gen. Stat. § 46b-120
The term 'abuse' includes emotional maltreatment.

**Abandonment**
**Citation:** Gen. Stat. § 46b-120
A child or youth may be found 'neglected' who has been abandoned.

**Standards for Reporting Citation:**
Gen. Stat. § 17a-101a
A report is required when there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected.

**Persons Responsible for the Child**
**Citation:** Gen. Stat. § 46b-120
Responsible persons include the child's parents or guardian.

**Exceptions**
**Citation:** Gen. Stat. § 46b-120
The treatment of any child by an accredited Christian Science practitioner, in lieu of treatment by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts, shall not of itself constitute neglect or maltreatment.
Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect
To better understand this issue and to view it across States, download the PDF (763 KB) of this publication.

Professionals Required to Report
Citation: Gen. Stat. §§ 17a-101; 53a-65
The following persons are required to report:

• Physicians, surgeons, residents, interns, nurses, medical examiners, dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, physician assistants, pharmacists, or physical therapists
• Psychologists or other mental health professionals
• School employees, as defined by § 53a-65
• Social workers
• Police officers, juvenile or adult probation officers, or parole officers
• Members of the clergy
• Alcohol and drug counselors, marital and family therapists, professional counselors, sexual assault counselors, or domestic violence counselors
• Licensed foster parents
• Emergency medical services providers
• Any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, child daycare center, group daycare home, or family daycare home that is licensed by the State
• Employees of the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Public Health, and the Office of Early Childhood who are responsible for the licensing of child daycare centers, group daycare homes, family daycare homes, or youth camps
• The Child Advocate and any employee of the Office of Child Advocate
• Family relations counselor trainees or family services supervisors employed by the Judicial Department

The term 'school employee' includes teachers, substitute teachers, school administrators, school superintendents, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, physicians, school paraprofessionals, or coaches employed by a local or regional board of education or a private elementary, middle, or high school or any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students.

Reporting by Other Persons Citation:
Gen. Stat. § 17a-103
Any mandated reporter acting outside his or her professional capacity, or any other person having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, may report.

Institutional Responsibility to Report
Citation: Gen. Stat. §§ 17a-101b(d); 17a-101e(a)
Whenever a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child has been abused or neglected by a member of the staff of a public or private institution or facility that provides care for such child or a public or private school, the mandated reporter shall report as required by law. The Commissioner of Children and Families or the commissioner's designee shall notify the principal, headmaster, executive director, or other person in charge of the institution, facility, or school, or that person's designee, unless that person is the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect of the child. In the case of a public school, the commissioner also shall notify the person's employing superintendent. The person in charge or the person's designee then shall immediately notify the child's parent or other person responsible for the child's care that a report has been made.

No employer shall:
• Discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against any employee who in good faith makes a report of child abuse or neglect, testifies, or is about to testify in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect
• Hinder, prevent, or attempt to hinder or prevent any employee from making a report as required or testifying in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect
Standards for Making a Report
Citation: Gen. Stat. § 17a-101a
A report is required when, in the ordinary course of his or her employment or profession, a reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under age 18:

- Has been abused or neglected
- Has had a nonaccidental physical injury or an injury that is at variance with the history given of the injury
- Is placed at imminent risk of serious harm

Any school employee shall report when, in the ordinary course of his or her employment or profession, he or she has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person who is being educated by the technical high school system or a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education program, is a victim of abuse and the perpetrator is a school employee.

A mandated reporter's suspicion or belief may be based on factors, including, but not limited to, observations, allegations, facts, or statements by a child, victim, or a third party. Such suspicion or belief does not require certainty or probable cause.

Privileged Communications
Not addressed in statutes reviewed.

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report
Citation: Gen. Stat. §§ 17a-101d; 17a-103
The reporter is not specifically required by statute to include his or her name in the report. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall use his or her best efforts to obtain the name and address of the reporter.

Disclosure of Reporter Identity
Citation: Gen. Stat. § 17a-28(f)
The name of an individual reporting suspected child abuse or neglect or cooperating with an investigation of child abuse or neglect shall be kept confidential upon request or upon determination by the department that disclosure of such information may be detrimental to the safety or interests of the individual.

When there is reasonable cause to believe that the reporter knowingly made a false report, however, the name of any such individual shall be disclosed to:

- An employee of the department for reasons reasonably related to the business of the department
- A law enforcement officer for purposes of investigating:
  - Abuse or neglect of a child or youth
  - An allegation that the individual falsely reported the suspected abuse or neglect of a child or youth
- A State's attorney for purposes of investigating or prosecuting:
  - Abuse or neglect of a child or youth
  - An allegation that the individual falsely reported the suspected abuse or neglect of a child or youth
- An assistant attorney general or other legal counsel representing the department
- A judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties in a court proceeding pursuant to § 17a-112 or 46b-129, or a criminal prosecution involving child abuse or neglect
- A State child care licensing agency
- The executive director of any institution, school, or facility or superintendent of schools pursuant to § 17a-101i