

Kentucky Mandatory Reporting Laws

Kentucky Family Planning

April 2026



Learning Objectives

- 🛡️ Knowledge and understanding of who is required to report
- 🛡️ Knowledge and understanding of what to report
- 🛡️ Knowledge and understanding of how to make reports
- 🛡️ Knowledge and understanding of penalties for failure to make a report

Public Law



To remain eligible for federal funding, states are required to have procedures for the reporting and investigation of abuse and neglect cases.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974 (CAPTA), Public Law 108-36

Kentucky Unified Juvenile Code



- 🛡️ A child's fundamental right to be safe and to be nurtured.
- 🛡️ A child's basic right to be raised by his/her own parents, whenever possible.

KRS 620.010

Kentucky Mandatory Reporting Laws

-  Diagnosis and Treatment of Minors (KRS 214.185)
-  Outpatient Mental Health Counseling of Minors (KRS 214.185 & KRS 202A.011)
-  New Legislation with Definitions (KRS 600.020 & KRS 209.020)
-  Mandatory Reporting in Kentucky (KRS 620.030, KRS 209.030 & KRS 209A.100)
-  Duty to Report Child Dependency, Neglect and Abuse (KRS 620.030)
-  Duty to Report Adult Abuse and Neglect (KRS 209.030)
-  Domestic/Dating Violence and Abuse (KRS 209A.100)
-  Human Trafficking (KRS 620.030, KRS 529.100 & KRS 529.120)
-  Refusal to Report (KRS 620.030 & KRS 209A.030)

Diagnosis and Treatment of Minors Without the Consent of Parent or Guardian

Any physician may make a **diagnostic exam** for a minor, with the minor's consent for:

Pregnancy

Substance Use
Disorder

Venereal
Disease

Diagnosis and Treatment of Minors Without the Consent of Parent or Guardian (Continued)

Any physician may advise, prescribe or treat:

Pregnancy

Substance Use
Disorder

Venereal
Disease

Childbirth

Contraception

KRS 214.185

Outpatient Mental Health Counseling of Minors Without the Consent of Parent or Guardian

- 🛡️ A physician may provide to 16 years of age or older
- 🛡️ A qualified mental health professional may provide
 - Upon the request of the child **and** 16 or 17 years of age
 - Unaccompanied youth **and** homeless or not in physical custody of a parent

KRS 214.185, KRS 202A.011 & 42USC11434A(6)

New Definition of Abused or Neglected Child

A child whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm when his or her parent, guardian or other person supervising the child fails

- 🛡️ Repeatedly to provide essential parental care and protection for the child, considering the age of the child
- 🛡️ To make sufficient progress toward identified goals as set forth in the court-approved case plan to allow for the safe return of the child to the parent that results in the child remaining in foster care for 15 cumulative months out of 48 months
- 🛡️ To provide the child with basic needs necessary for the child's well-being when financially able or offered financial means

Allows CHFS to get involved in cases sooner

KRS 600.020

New Definition of Abused or Neglected Child (Continued)

A child whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm when his or her parent, guardian or other person supervising the child

- 🛡️ Inflicts, allows to be inflicted, or creates or allows a risk of physical or emotional injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or prostitution upon the child
- 🛡️ Commits or allows female genital mutilation
- 🛡️ Behaves in a way that makes them incapable of caring for the immediate and ongoing needs of the child (i.e., substance use disorder)
- 🛡️ Abandons or exploits the child

A person 21 years of age or older commits or allows an act of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or prostitution upon a child less than 16 years of age

KRS 600.020

Dependency



“Dependent child” means any child who is under improper care, custody, control, or guardianship that is not due to an intentional act of the parent, guardian, or person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child.

Exploitation



Obtain or use another person's resources, including but not limited to funds, assets, and property, by deception, intimidation, or similar means.

Duty to Report **Child** Abuse, Neglect, and Dependence

Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child (age 17 or younger) is dependent, neglected, abused, trafficked or a victim of female genital mutilation shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made to

- 🛡️ Local law enforcement agency
- 🛡️ Kentucky State Police
- 🛡️ Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)
- 🛡️ Commonwealth's or County attorney



KRS 620.030

Signs of **Child** Abuse & Neglect

- 🛡️ Unexplained injuries (bruises, broken bone, burns, etc.)
- 🛡️ Loss of self-confidence
- 🛡️ Social withdrawal
- 🛡️ Sexual behavior or knowledge that's inappropriate for the child's age
- 🛡️ Depression
- 🛡️ Poor growth
- 🛡️ Inappropriate sexual behavior with other children
- 🛡️ Delayed or inappropriate emotional development
- 🛡️ Poor personal cleanliness
- 🛡️ Pregnancy or a sexually transmitted infection
- 🛡️ Decrease in school performance
- 🛡️ Hoarding or stealing food

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/child-abuse/symptoms-causes/syc-20370864>

Vulnerable Adult

Chapter 209 defines as persons 18 or older who, because of mental or physical dysfunctions, are unable to manage resources, carry out daily living activity, or protect self from harm



KRS 209.020

Duty to Report **Adult** Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation

 Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult has suffered abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall report, either orally or in writing, immediately to the **Cabinet of Health and Family Services (CHFS)**.



Signs of **Adult** Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation

- 🛡️ Bruises, broken bones, cuts, etc.
- 🛡️ Nervousness around certain people
- 🛡️ Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sore, poor personal hygiene
- 🛡️ Caregiver's refusal to allow visitor to see a vulnerable adult alone
- 🛡️ Sudden changes in bank account or banking practice
- 🛡️ Unattended or untreated health problems
- 🛡️ Unexplained injury around the genital area or breasts
- 🛡️ Abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- 🛡️ Hazardous or unsafe living conditions
- 🛡️ Extremely withdrawn, non-communicative or non-responsive
- 🛡️ Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions
- 🛡️ Unsanitary and unclean living conditions

<https://www.safv.org/vulnerable-adult-abuse>

Domestic and Dating Violence



Physical injury, stalking, sexual abuse, strangulation, or assault between family members or members of an unmarried couple.

Domestic/Dating Violence Abuse

🛡️ When to report

- Upon the request of the victim, a professional shall report to a law enforcement officer (KRS 209A.100)
 - An act of domestic violence and abuse
 - An act of dating violence and abuse
 - Must have the victim's permission prior to contacting law enforcement

🛡️ When NOT to report

- Reasonable cause of domestic/dating violence
- The victim does not give permission

KRS 209A.100



Signs of Dating Violence

- Using insults, intimidation, or humiliation
- Explosive temper or unusual moodiness
- Abusing alcohol or drugs
- Extreme jealousy, insecurity or controlling behavior
- Invasion of privacy; showing up unannounced
- Threatening or causing physical violence; scratches, bruises, etc
- Isolation from friends and family
- Leaving unwanted items, gifts or flowers
- Constantly monitoring social media activities or location

<https://publichealth.gmu.edu/news/2022-02/10-warning-signs-teen-dating-violence>

Signs of Domestic Violence

- 🛡️ Extreme jealousy and possessiveness
- 🛡️ Extremely controlling behavior
- 🛡️ Sabotage or obstruction of victim's ability to work or attend school
- 🛡️ Unpredictability
- 🛡️ Controls finances
- 🛡️ Forces sex or disregard for their partner's unwillingness to have sex
- 🛡️ Bad temper, verbal abuse
- 🛡️ Blaming victim for anything bad that happens
- 🛡️ Demeaning victim either privately or publicly

<https://ncadv.org/signs-of-abuse>

Professional Responsibility with Domestic/Dating Violence and Abuse Victims

If a professional has reasonable cause to believe that an individual with whom he or she has had professional interaction with has experienced domestic violence and abuse or dating violence and abuse, they must provide them with

- Educational materials related to domestic/dating violence and abuse
- Information about how he or she may access regional domestic violence programs
- Information about how to access protective orders

Resources for Professional Compliance

Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence website
(www.kcadv.org)

- Educational materials related to domestic/dating violence and abuse
- Information about how a victim can access regional domestic violence programs
- Information about how to access protective orders

SAFE Screen for Domestic Violence

S: Stress and Safety

Do you feel safe in your relationship?

A: Afraid or Abused

Has your partner ever threatened you or your children?

Has your partner ever abused you or your children?

F: Friends and Family

If you were hurt, would your friends or family know?

Would they be able to help you?

E: Emergency Plan

Do you have a safe place to go in an emergency?

Do you need help in locating a shelter?

Would you like to talk to a counselor about this?

<https://fpnotebook.com/Prevent/Exam/SfScrnFrIntmtPrtnrVlnc.htm>

Adult Human Trafficking

Criminal activity whereby one or more persons are subjected to engaging in forced labor or services, commercial sexual activity through force, fraud, or coercion

- Suspected cases of trafficking should be reported to CHFS; intervening directly can put the victim at an increased risk

Child Human Trafficking

Does not have to involve force, fraud, or coercion if the individual is under 18.

- Suspected cases of trafficking should be reported to CHFS; intervening directly can put the child at an increased risk
- The child should be treated as an abused child, and cannot be prosecuted for prostitution

Signs of Human Trafficking

Appears disconnected from family, friends, or community organizations

Appears timid, fearful, or submissive

Defers to companion or another person in their presence

Stops attending school

Unstable living conditions

Signs of mental or physical abuse (disoriented, confused, bruises in various stages of healing)

<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/indicators-human-trafficking>

Failure to Report



Child or adult: abuse, neglect, dependence, and trafficking

- Class B misdemeanor – first offense
- Class A misdemeanor – second offense
- Class D felony – each subsequent offense

Domestic and dating violence and abuse

- Class B misdemeanor

*Attorney-client and clergy-penitent privilege are the only exceptions for child abuse, neglect and dependence.

KRS 620.030; KRS 209A.030

Incest of Child or Vulnerable Adult

Sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse, as defined in KRS 510.010, with a person whom he or she knows to be his or her parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, great-grandparent, greatgrandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, brother, sister, first cousin, ancestor, or descendant. The relationships referred to herein include blood relationships of either the whole or half blood without regard to legitimacy, relationship of parent and child by adoption, relationship of stepparent and stepchild, and relationship of step-grandparent and step-grandchild.



Applies to situations involving a child or vulnerable adult and requires a report to the CHFS or local law enforcement.

KRS 530.020

Incest is Punishable by Law

- 🛡️ Class C felony if the act is committed by consenting persons
- 🛡️ Class D felony
 - Without consent
 - Forcible compulsion as defined in KRS 510.010
 - With a person less than eighteen years of age by a person three or more years older
 - Incapable of consent (physically helpless, mentally incapacitated) as defined in KRS 510.010
- 🛡️ Class A felony
 - With person
 - Less than twelve years of age
 - Without consent causing physical injury

Signs of Incest

- 🛡️ Wide range of symptoms that affect mental, emotional, and physical health
- 🛡️ Anxiety, panic attacks, or persistent fear
- 🛡️ Dissociation (feeling detached from body or surroundings)
- 🛡️ Trouble focusing during school or work
- 🛡️ Substance use or disordered eating
- 🛡️ Challenges in relationships and intimacy

<https://rainn.org/what-counts-as-sexual-violence/get-the-facts-about-incest-sexual-abuse-by-a-family-member/>

Rape

Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

Kentucky has three separate laws that criminalize rape:

- First-degree rape (KRS 510.040)
- Second-degree rape (KRS 510.050)
- Third-degree rape (KRS 510.060)

According to RAINN.Org 60% of rapes are committed by someone known to the victim.

<https://rainn.org/get-the-facts-about-sexual-assault-rape>

Title X Family Planning Expectations

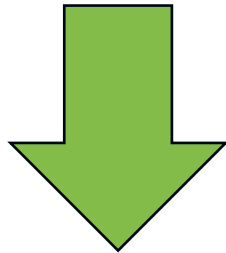
Provision of family planning services under Title X are in statute and requires that Title X service providers shall:

- To the extent practicable, encourage family participation in family planning services visits
- Provide services without subjecting individuals to any coercion to accept services or to employ or not to employ any particular methods of family planning

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-59/subpart-A/section-59.5>

Encouraging Family Participation at Family Planning Visit

- Parental care and concern
- Parental presence in the home
- Shared activities
- Overall closeness between parent and their adolescent

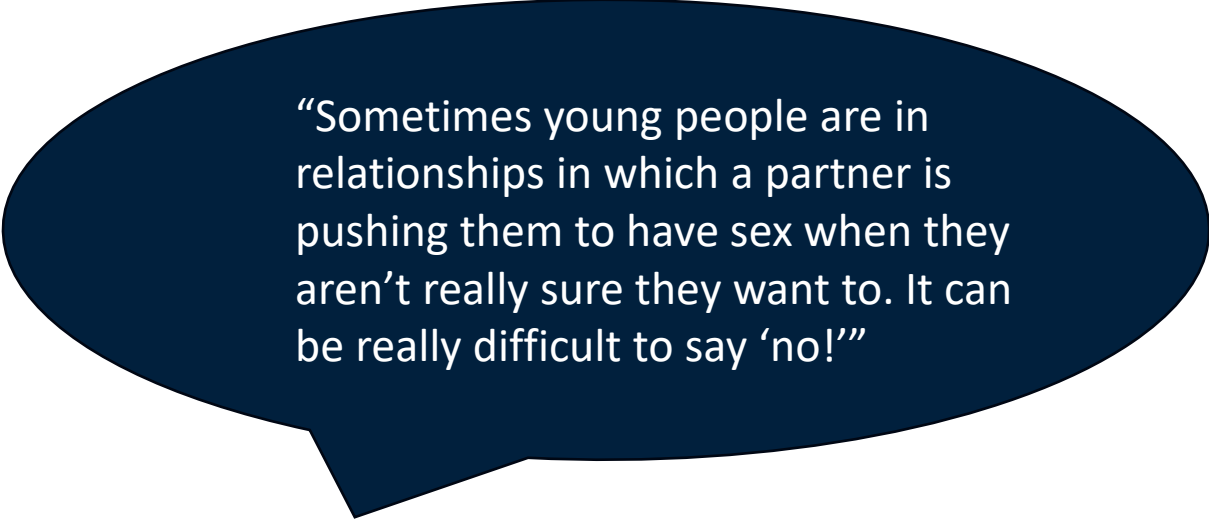


Reduces the risk of early teen pregnancy

“If you feel like you can’t talk to your parents, are there any other trusted adults you can talk to, like another family member or family friend?”

Counseling Adolescent Clients to Resist Sexual Coercion

Sexual coercion is unwanted sexual activity that happens when someone is pressured, tricked, threatened, or forced in a non-physical way.



“Sometimes young people are in relationships in which a partner is pushing them to have sex when they aren’t really sure they want to. It can be really difficult to say ‘no!’”

Mandatory Reporting in Kentucky

	Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency; Incest	Adult Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation	Human Trafficking	Domestic or Dating Violence and Abuse
Who is required to report	Anyone who has reason to believe it is occurring, including healthcare professionals **Exception: attorney client or clergy-penitent relationship	Anyone who has reason to believe it is occurring, including healthcare professionals	Anyone who has reason to believe it is occurring, including healthcare professionals	Professional , upon the request of the victim
What to report	- Names and addresses of the child and their parent(s) or guardian(s) - Child's age - Nature and extent of the alleged dependency, neglect or abuse, including any previous charges to this child or his or her siblings - Name and address of the person allegedly responsible for abuse or neglect - Any other information that may be helpful	- Name and address of the adult, or anyone responsible for their care - Adult's age - Nature and extent of the abuse, neglect, or exploitation, including any evidence of previous abuse, neglect or exploitation - Identity of the perpetrator and complainant, if possible - Any other information that may be helpful		Contents of report determined after discussion with the victim
How to report	Oral or written report to a local law enforcement agency, the Department of KY State Police, CHFS, the commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney Kentucky Adult/Child Protective Services Reporting System Website Phone: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331	Oral or written report to CHFS Kentucky Adult/Child Protective Services Reporting System Website Phone: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331	Oral or written report to a local law enforcement agency, the Department of KY State Police, CHFS, the Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney	Report to a law enforcement officer, with permission of the victim
Law	KRS 620.030	KRS 209.030	KRS 620.030	KRS 209A.100

Reporting

- **Kentucky Child/Adult Protective Services Reporting System:**
- 1-877-597-2331 (1-877-KYSAFE1)
- 1-800-752-6200 (Business hours)
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:**
- 1-800-799-7233 (1-800-799-SAFE)
- **Kentucky Domestic Violence Association**
- 1-502-209-5382
- **The National Human Trafficking Hotline:**
- 1-888-373-7888

References

- “From Report to Court”, CHFS, DCBS PowerPoint as presented by Child Protection Branch
- “Recognizing and Reporting Maltreatment” Appalachian Kentucky Healthcare Access Network
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974 (CAPTA), Public Law 108-36
- Kentucky Revised Statutes Database <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov>
- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/child-abuse/symptoms-causes/syc-20370864>
- <https://www.safv.org/vulnerable-adult-abuse>
- <https://publichealth.gmu.edu/news/2022-02/10-warning-signs-teen-dating-violence>
- <https://ncadv.org/signs-of-abuse>
- <https://fpnotebook.com/Prevent/Exam/SfScrnFrIntmtPrtnrVInc.htm>
- <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/indicators-human-trafficking>
- <https://education.ky.gov/school/sdfs/Pages/Human-Trafficking.aspx>
- <https://rainn.org/what-counts-as-sexual-violence/get-the-facts-about-incest-sexual-abuse-by-a-family-member/>
- <https://rainn.org/get-the-facts-about-sexual-assault-rape>
- <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-59/subpart-A/section-59.5>
- [RHNTC.org](https://rhntc.org)
- <https://prd.webapps.chfs.ky.gov/reportabuse/OutofHours.aspx>

Thank you.

Kentucky Family Planning Program

FamilyPlanning@ky.gov

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dwh/Pages/familyplanning.aspx>



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