

This information is a guide and summary only. It is not legal advice.

# Section one: Overview of mandatory reporting legislation

**Child Protection**  
*Make the Call*



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Communities  
Child Protection and Family Support

# Section one: Overview of the mandatory reporting legislation

By the end of section one you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the legislation.
- State the legal obligation of a mandatory reporter of child sexual abuse.
- State who a mandatory reporter of child sexual abuse is in Western Australia.
- State the penalties for not reporting.

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# Legislation details

- The legislation that governs mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse in Western Australia *Children and Community Services Amendment Act 2004*.
- For the purposes of this program, the term *mandatory reporting* refers to this legislation.

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# What is mandatory reporting?

- In Western Australia, it is a legal obligation for designated professionals to report child sexual abuse to the Department of Communities - Child Protection and Family Support.
- All Australian jurisdictions have some level of mandatory reporting.

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# Do other forms of abuse have to be reported?

- Everyone should continue to report other forms of abuse (physical, emotional and neglect) to the Department of Communities - Child Protection and Family Support and/or the WA Police.
- However, there is no penalty if a report is not made.

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# What professional groups are mandated to report child sexual abuse in Western Australia?

- Doctors
- Nurses and Midwives
- Teachers
- Police Officers
- Boarding Supervisors

These professionals from Government, non-Government and private sectors are all mandatory reporters.

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# What happens if a mandatory reporter fails to make a report?

- Failure to make a mandatory report is an offence if a belief has been formed that child sexual abuse has occurred. The maximum penalty is \$6,000.
- Failure to provide a written report after making a verbal report is also an offence. The maximum penalty is \$3,000.

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## Content review

The following pages include questions about the content covered in section one.

See if you can answer each question in your head, then click the forward button to reveal the correct answer.



**Section one:** Overview of the mandatory reporting legislation

# Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse is in all Australian states and territories

- true
- false

Click forward to reveal correct answer

**Section one:** Overview of the mandatory reporting legislation

# Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse is in all Australian states and territories

- true
- false

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# Who is required by law to report a belief of child sexual abuse in Western Australia?

- a) psychologists
- b) nurses, midwives and doctors
- c) teachers, police officers and boarding supervisors
- d) both (b) and (c)
- e) all of the above.

**Click forward to reveal correct answer**

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# Who is required by law to report a belief of child sexual abuse in Western Australia?

- a) psychologists
- b) nurses, midwives and doctors
- c) teachers, police officers and boarding supervisors
- d) both (b) and (c)**
- e) all of the above.

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**Under the legislation, everyone in Western Australia is mandated by law to report a belief of child sexual abuse**

- true
- false

Click forward to reveal correct answer

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**Under the legislation, everyone in Western Australia is mandated by law to report a belief of child sexual abuse**

- true
- false

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# The legislation only applies to government-funded doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers and boarding supervisors

- true
- false

Click forward to reveal correct answer

**Section one:** Overview of the mandatory reporting legislation

**The legislation only applies to government-funded doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers and boarding supervisors**

- true
- false



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# Failure to make a mandatory report carries what penalty?

- a) a prison term
- b) community service
- c) a \$6,000 fine
- d) none of the above

**Click forward to reveal correct answer**

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# Failure to make a mandatory report carries what penalty?

- a) a prison term
- b) community service
- c) a \$6,000 fine**
- d) none of the above

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**You have now completed section one,  
overview of mandatory reporting legislation.  
Please proceed to section two.**

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