

## Summary of Mandatory Reporting Requirements for Health Care Providers Serving Minors (July 2023)

Who is the report made to?	DSS	Law Enforcement		
When is a report required?	Cause to suspect that a child is abused, neglected, or dependent or has died due to maltreatment	Know or reasonably should have known that a juvenile was or is the victim of a violent offense, sexual offense, or misdemeanor child abuse	Certain wounds, illnesses, and injuries (regardless of patient age); non-accidental trauma causing recurrent illness or serious physical injury in a child under age 18	Suspect that a child under age 16 has disappeared and may be in danger
Who must report?	All persons (“universal”)	Persons age 18+ (limited exceptions for some professionals with privilege; exception does not include doctors and nurses)	Physicians and health care facility directors/ administrators	All persons (“universal”)
Timing of report	Law does not specify (but given risks to child health and safety, reporting should not be delayed)	Immediately	As soon as practicable before, during, or after the child’s treatment	Within a reasonable time
Criminal penalty for failure to report or preventing a report?	Yes- misdemeanor	Yes- misdemeanor	No- but liability still possible, depending on the circumstances	Yes- misdemeanor
Immunity for good faith reporting?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Statutes	G.S. 7B-101; 7B-301	G.S. 14-318.6	G.S. 90-21.20(b)-(c1)	G.S. 14-318.5

**Reminder:** Some situations may trigger a requirement to make a report to both DSS and law enforcement. When this occurs, a person cannot make a report to just one agency (e.g., reporting to DSS, but not law enforcement) in satisfaction of their total reporting duties; instead, reports to both agencies must be made.

**Reminder:** Terms such as “abuse,” “neglect,” “serious physical injury,” etc. have specific meanings under NC law. Definitions can be found by reading the relevant statutes.