

Mandatory Reporting Child Abuse in Texas

Texas Law

Section 261.101 of the Texas Family Code mandates that anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect must report it immediately (within 48 hours). The report may be made to (1) any local or state law enforcement agency; or (2) the Department of Family and Protective Services.

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/dshs-ems-trauma-systems/links-resources-references/child-abuse-reporting-requirements>

Anonymous reports can be made to local law enforcement, but not to DFPS. However, all reporting names are kept confidential.

Ways to Report

1. Local Law Enforcement – 911 if emergency or immediate danger
2. DFPS Texas Abuse Hotline – Child Protective Services
 - a. Call 1-800-252-5400 or
 - b. Report online <https://www.txabusehotline.org/>