

TITLE 16
Health and Safety
Part II

Regulatory Provisions Concerning Public Health

Chapter 9. ABUSE OF CHILDREN

**Subchapter I. Reports and Investigations of Abuse and Neglect; Child
Protection Accountability Commission**

§ 901. Purpose.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the primary purpose of the child welfare policy of this State shall be to ensure the best interest and safety of the child, including preserving the family unit whenever the safety of the child is not jeopardized. To that end it is the purpose of this chapter to provide for comprehensive protective services for abused and neglected children by mandating that reports of such abuse or neglect be made to the appropriate authorities and by requiring the child protection system to seek and promote the safety of children who are the subject of such reports of abuse or neglect by conducting investigations or family assessments and providing necessary services.

It shall further be the purpose of this chapter to provide for the protection of all children in facilities or organizations required to be licensed under Delaware Law whose primary concern is that of child welfare and care by requiring the Attorney General to notify any such facility in cases where an employee of such a facility or any other person associated with such facility has been charged with or convicted of any offense involving child sexual abuse. (16 Del. C. 1953, § 1001; 58 Del. Laws. C. 154; 60 Del. Laws, c. 494, § 1; 68 Del. Laws, c. 440, § 1; 71 Del. Laws, c. 199, § 2.)

§ 903. Reports Required.

Any physician, and any other person in the healing arts including any person licensed to render services in medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, any intern, resident, nurse, school employee, social worker, psychologist, medical examiner, or any other person who knows or in good faith suspects child abuse or neglect shall make a report in accordance with § 904 of this title. In addition to and not in lieu of reporting to the Division of Family Services, any such person may also give oral or written notification of said knowledge or suspicion to any police officer who is in the presence of such person for the purpose of rendering assistance to the child in question or investigating the cause of the child's injuries or condition. (16 Del. C. 1953, § 1002; 58 Del. Laws, c. 154; 60 Del. Laws, c. 494, § 1; 72 Del. Laws, c. 179, §4.)

§ 904. Nature and content of report; to whom made.

Any report required to be made under this chapter shall be made to the Division of Family Services of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. An immediate oral report shall be made by telephone or otherwise. Reports and the contents thereof including a written report, if requested, shall be made in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Division of Family Services, or in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Division. (16 Del. C. 1953, § 1003; 58 Del. Laws c. 153; 60 Del. Laws, c. 494, §1; 64 Del. Laws, c. 108, §§4, 11.)