

Mandatory Reporting Requirements

Statute 162.069 requires that school district training on identifying signs of sexual abuse emphasize:

- All mandatory reporters shall, upon finding reasonable cause, directly and immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect

Mandatory Reporting

- RSMo. 210.115. 1: When any . . . teacher, principal or other school official . . . or other person with responsibility for the care of children has **reasonable cause** to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that person **shall immediately report to the division** in accordance with the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183. . . . As used in this section, the term "abuse" is not limited to abuse inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care, custody and control as specified in section 210.110, but shall also include abuse inflicted by any other person.

Source: Mickes Goldman O'Toole, L.L.C., 2014

Mandatory Reporting

- No supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit any reporting of child abuse and neglect
- No person making a report of child abuse and neglect shall be subject to any sanction, including adverse employment action, for making such report

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- Statute 210.115.1 now includes the following prohibition: No internal investigation shall be initiated until such a report has been made.

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- Missouri legislature **removed** the requirement in statute 210.115.2 that the mandatory reporter immediately notify the person in charge and that the person in charge shall then become responsible for immediately

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making or causing the report to be made to the division. The new additions to the statute stress that “the reporting requirements...are individual, and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit any reporting....”

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- Also, each employer shall ensure that its mandatory reporter employees have “immediate and unrestricted access to communications technology necessary to make an immediate report and is temporarily relieved of other work duties for such time as is required to make any report....”

Mandatory Reporting: Report of Employee Sexual Misconduct

Section 160.261(11) RSMo. requires the superintendent and a mandatory reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect employed by a school who receives a report by a student of sexual misconduct on the part of a school employee to immediately report the allegation directly to children's division.