

With respect to child abuse, new law establishes training for all mandatory reporters, as defined by existing law, to familiarize these reporters with their legal mandate for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect.

New law specifies that the training is to be made available by the child welfare division of the Dept. of Children and Family Services or any other mechanism as approved by the department as long as it includes information on the reporting procedure and consequences of failing to report.

New law provides that each mandatory reporter may obtain mandatory reporting training as each mandatory reporter believes to be necessary.

New law authorizes the appropriate state regulatory department, board, commission, or agency for each category of mandatory reporter to provide continuing education credit for the completion of the training.

New law authorizes any entity, including but not limited to hospitals, educational and religious institutions, and nonprofits, to provide its employees, volunteers, or educational attendees with equivalent training.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Adds Ch. C. Art. 609(A)(3))