

Appendix H

Resources on Mandated Reporting

Reporting suspected abuse or neglect of a child: Under Wisconsin Statutes, clergy are mandated reporters of suspected abuse or neglect of children. Wisconsin Criminal Code 940.22

As mandated reporters clergy are required to:

Mandated reporters are required to report known or suspected abuse or neglect of a child under the age of 18 immediately to either child protection services or law enforcement. Law enforcement is required to report abuse or neglect to child protective services within 12 hours. Immediately notify the county department of social services or human services; if in Milwaukee County, notify the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare.

For more information, see Chapter 48.981(2) of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Adults who were abused under the age of 18 and wish to report their abuse may file a report with law enforcement. There are criminal statutes of limitations specific to abuse and neglect of children and these time frames and limitations differ depending upon the type of crime committed. For more information see Chapter 939.74(2) (c) and (cm) of the Wisconsin state statutes.

Reporting suspected abuse or neglect of elderly or adults at risk:

Adult at Risk: An adult who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs his or her ability to care for his or her needs who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.

Elder Adult at Risk: An individual age 60 or older who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation.

Although reporting of elder abuse is voluntary, Sec. 46.90, Wis. Stats., mandates counties to establish an elder abuse reporting system and publish a phone number for the county agency that is designated to receive reports. Confidentiality and immunity are granted to reporters.

If a professional suspects abuse, neglect (which includes self-neglect) or exploitation to an adult in their care, they should call their county Elder Adults/Adults at Risk Agency. The law provides immunity to all reporters who file a report in good faith.

Each county's contact information for Elder Adults/Adults-at-Risk agency will be listed in the telephone book. You may also get more information by calling:

Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources 608-261-5990 or, on the web at StopAbuse@dhfs.wisconsin.gov.

“How to” information for conducting background checks

Oxford Document Management has been the vendor of choice for religious organizations seeking comprehensive background checks of their clergy, church employees, and volunteers. More information can be found at <http://www.oxforddoc.com> or contact the Office of the Bishop at Nicholson House. There is a video training offered through Safeguarding Online Training that we encourage all clergy and lay leadership to complete.