

Gafney Library

Reporting of Suspected or Identified Abuse or Neglect Policy- External

The Gafney Library complies with NH Statute RSA 169-C, The Child Protection Act and RSA 161-F, Elderly and Adult Services regarding the mandated reporting of child and adult abuse and/or neglect. All employees and volunteers of the Gafney Library are mandated reporters.

RSA 169-C: 29-31 requires all instances of suspected abuse and neglect involving a child under 18 years of age be reported to NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Children Youth and Families (DCYF). Behaviors that may require reporting include but are not limited to those listed by the NH DHHS website at <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/cps/signs.htm>.

In the event that staff witness an incident or have reason to suspect abuse or neglect of a child under the age of 18, a report will be filed with DHHS within 48 hours of the event. Proof is not required to make a report and the report can be made anonymously. The report can be made at any time at to **603-271-6562 or 1-800-894-5533** (in-state only).

Reporting Law

Section 169-C:29

169-C:29 Persons Required to Report. – Any physician, surgeon, county medical examiner, psychiatrist, resident, intern, dentist, osteopath, optometrist, chiropractor, psychologist, therapist, registered nurse, hospital personnel (engaged in admission, examination, care and treatment of persons), Christian Science practitioner, teacher, school official, school nurse, school counselor, social worker, day care worker, any other child or foster care worker, law enforcement official, priest, minister, or rabbi or any other person having reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the same in accordance with this chapter.

Source. 1979, 361:2, eff. Aug. 22, 1979.

Chapter 169-C CHILD PROTECTION ACT. (n.d.). <https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xii/169-c/169-c-mrg.htm>

Approved by the Gafney Library Board of Trustees 8/21/24

The Adult Protection Law requires the reporting by any person who has a reason to believe that a vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse, neglect, exploitation, or self-neglect. The report is made at the NH Department of Healthy and Human Services (DHHS), Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS) immediately. Proof is not required to make a report and the report can be made anonymously. The report can be made at any time by phone to **603-271-7014 / 1-800-949-0470** or by email to www.APSCentralIntake@dhhs.nh.gov

Section 161-F:46

161-F:46 Reports of Adult Abuse; Investigations. –

Any person, including, but not limited to, physicians, other health care professionals, social workers, clergy, and law enforcement officials, suspecting or believing in good faith that any adult who is or who is suspected to be vulnerable, at the time of the incident, has been subjected to abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation or is, or was living in hazardous conditions shall report or cause a report to be made as follows:

- I. An oral report, by telephone or otherwise, shall be made immediately, followed by a written report, if so requested, to the commissioner or his authorized representative. When oral reports are made after working hours of the department, or on weekends or holidays, such reports shall be made to the police department of the appropriate political subdivision, or to the sheriff of the county, in which the alleged abuse, neglect or exploitation occurred. Law enforcement officials receiving reports under this paragraph shall notify the commissioner within 72 hours of receipt of such reports.
- II. Within 72 hours following receipt by the commissioner or his authorized representative of such oral reports, an investigation shall be initiated by the commissioner or his authorized representative.
- III. Investigations shall not be made if the commissioner or his authorized representative determines that the report is frivolous or without a factual basis.

Source. 1989, 7:1. 1995, 310:175, 183. 2002, 36:3, eff. July 1, 2002. 2016, 59:2, eff. July 4, 2016. 2021, 122:42, eff. July 9, 2021.

Chapter 161-F ELDERLY AND ADULT SERVICES. (n.d.). <https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XII/161-F/161-F-mrg.htm>