

Clergy Mandated Reporting

A National Overview

Across the United States, the majority of states require clergy to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Kansas remains a significant exception — leaving a critical gap in child protection. The table below shows where each state stands.

Status	Privilege granted (limited to pastoral communications)	Privilege denied (suspected abuse/neglect)	Privilege not addressed in reporting laws
Clergy enumerated as mandated reporters	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, Wisconsin	Guam, New Hampshire, West Virginia	Connecticut, Mississippi
Clergy may be included under “any person” designation	Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Utah, Wyoming	North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas	Indiana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Tennessee, Puerto Rico
Neither clergy nor “any person” enumerated	Virginia, Washington	Not applicable	American Samoa, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, New York, Northern Mariana Islands, South Dakota, Virgin Islands

Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway (2016). Clergy as mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Bureau.

Kansas is surrounded by states that mandate clergy to report abuse — Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma all have such laws. **Kansas does not.**

Who IS a Mandated Reporter in Kansas?

Under **KSA 38-2223**, the following professionals are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect in Kansas:

- Healing arts practitioners (physicians, dentists, optometrists)
- Licensed clinical/professional counselors
- Licensed marriage & family therapists
- Licensed nurses (RN & LPN)
- School employees in contact with children
- Firefighters
- Law enforcement officers
- Court services & corrections officers
- Chief administrative officers of medical facilities
- Licensed psychologists & psychotherapists
- Licensed social workers
- Registered alcohol & drug abuse counselors
- School teachers & administrators
- Child care facility employees
- Emergency medical services personnel
- Juvenile intake & assessment workers
- Court-appointed mediators & case managers
- Post-graduate trainees (healing arts)

Notably absent from this list: clergy and religious leaders.

For the full Kansas mandated reporter list, visit: dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/MandatoryReportersChild.aspx

Support Mandating Clergy in Kansas to Report Abuse