

Application of Child Abuse Reporting Laws to Ministers and Lay Church Workers

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Statute	What is reportable “abuse”	Mandatory reporters	Where to report	Clergy privilege
Code §§ 31-33-5-1 et. seq. (1997)	Physical, sexual, or mental abuse	“An individual who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect shall make a report.”	Local child protection service or law enforcement agency	“The privileged communication between: (1) a husband and wife; (2) a health care provider and the health care provider’s patient; (3) a (A) certified social worker; (B) certified clinical social worker or (C) certified marriage and family therapist; and a client of any of the professionals described in clauses (A) through (C); (4) a school counselor and a students; or (5) a school psychologist and a students; is not a ground for excluding evidence in any judicial proceeding resulting from a report of a child who may be a victim of child abuse or neglect or relating to the subject matter of the report or failing to report as required by IC 31-33 [31-32-11-1]