Illinois
Child Abuse Reporting

Who do I contact to report an incident in Illinois?
Department of Children and Family Services
Phone: 800-25-ABUSE (800-252-2873)

The Online Reporting System should only be used for non-life threatening and non-emergency incidents of abuse and neglect: https://dcfsonlinereporting.dcfs.illinois.gov

If you believe a child is in immediate danger that could result in death or serious harm, call 911 first.

How much time do I have to report an incident?
Illinois requires immediate reporting. **325 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/4**.

What is reportable in Illinois?
Any mandatory reporter "having reasonable cause to believe a child known to them in their professional or official capacity may be an abused child[i] or a neglected child[ii] shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Department." **325 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/4**.

Who is a mandatory reporter in Illinois?

(1) Medical personnel, including: any physician licensed to practice medicine in any of its branches (medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy); resident, intern; medical administrator or personnel engaged in the examination, care, and treatment of persons; psychiatrist; surgeon; dentist; dental hygienist; chiropractic physician; podiatric physician; physician assistant; emergency medical technician; acupuncturist; registered nurse; licensed practical nurse; advanced practice registered nurse; genetic counselor; respiratory care practitioner; home health aide; or certified nursing assistant
(2) Social services and mental health personnel, including any: licensed professional counselor; licensed clinical professional counselor; licensed social worker; licensed psychologist or assistant working under the direct supervision of a psychologist; associate licensed marriage and family therapist; licensed marriage and family therapist; field personnel of the Departments of Healthcare and Family Services, Public Health, Human Services, Human Rights, or Children and Family Services; supervisor or administrator of the General Assistance program established under Article VI of the Illinois Public Aid Code; social services administrator; or substance abuse treatment personnel.
(3) Crisis intervention personnel, including any: crisis line or hotline personnel, or domestic violence program personnel.
(4) Education personnel, including any: school personnel (including administrators and certified and non-certified school employees); personnel of institutions of higher education; educational advocate assigned to a child in accordance with the School Code; member of a school board or the Chicago Board of Education or the governing body of a private school (but only to the extent required under subsection (d); or truant officer.
(5) Recreation or athletic program of facility personnel.
(6) Child are personnel, including any: early intervention provider as defined in the Early Intervention Services System Act; director or staff assistant of a nursery school or a child day care center, or foster parent, homemaker, or child care worker.

(7) Law Enforcement personnel, including any: law enforcement officer; field personnel of the Department of Juvenile Justice; field personnel of the Department of Corrections; probation officer; or animal control officer or field investigator of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare.
(8) Any funeral home director; funeral home director and embalmer; funeral home employee; coroner; or medical examiner.
(9) Any member of the clergy.
(10) Any physician, physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, medical technician, certified nursing assistant, licensed social worker, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed professional counselor of any office, clinic, or any other physical location that provides abortions, abortion referrals, or contraceptives. **325 Ill. Comp. Stat. §5/4**.

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Illinois?
Yes. **325 Ill. Comp. Stat §5/4 (a)(9)**.

Is there an exception for penitential communications in Illinois?
Yes. "A member of the clergy may claim the [clergy-penitent] privilege under Section 8-803 of the Code of Civil Procedure." (see below) **325 Ill. Comp. Stat §5/4 (h)**.

How is the privileged communication defined?
"A clergyman or practitioner of any religious denomination accredited by the religious body to which he or she belongs, shall not be compelled to disclose in any court, or to any administrative board or agency, or to any public officer, a confession or admission made to him or her in his or her professional character or as a spiritual advisor in the course of the discipline enjoined by the rules or practices of such religious body or of the religion which he or she professes, nor be compelled to divulge any information which has been obtained by him or her in such professional character or as such spiritual advisor." **735 Ill. Comp. Stat §8-803**.

Where can I find Illinois law on child abuse?
http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1460&ChapterID=32

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[i] "Abused child" means a child whose parent or immediate family member, or any person responsible for the child's welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child's parent: (a) inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury, by other than accidental means, which causes death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss of impairment of any bodily function; (b) creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss of impairment of any bodily function; (c) commits or allows to be committed any sex offense against such child, as such sex offenses are defined in the Criminal Code of 2012 or in the Wrongs to Children Act, and extending those definitions of sex offenses to include children under 18 years of age; (d) commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of torture upon such child; (e) inflicts excessive corporal punishment or, in the case of a person working for an agency who is prohibited from using corporal punishment, inflicts corporal punishment upon a child or adult resident with whom the person is working in his or her professional capacity; (f) commits or allows to be committed the offense of female genital mutilation as defined in Section 12-34 of the Criminal Code of 2012, against the child; (g) causes to be sold, transferred, distributed, or given to such child under 18 years of age, a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act or in violation of the

Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, except for controlled substances that are prescribed in accordance with Article III of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act and are dispensed to such child in a manner that substantially compiles with the prescription; or (h) commits or allows to be committed the offense of involuntary servitude of a minor, or trafficking in persons as defined in Section 10-9 of the Criminal Code of 2012 against the child. or (i) commits the offense of grooming, as defined in Section 11–25 of the Criminal Code of 2012, against the child.

[ii] Neglected child" means any child who is not receiving the proper or necessary nourishment or medically indicated treatment including food or care not provided solely on the basis of the present or anticipated mental or physical impairment as determined by a physician acting alone or in consultation with other physicians or otherwise is not receiving the proper or necessary support or medical or other remedial care recognized under State law as necessary for a child's well-being, or other care necessary for his or her well-being, including adequate food, clothing, and shelter; or who is subjected to an environment which is injurious insofar as (i) the child's environment creates a likelihood of harm to the child's health, physical well-being, or welfare, and (ii) the likely harm to the child is the result of a blatant disregard of parent, caretaker, person responsible for the child's welfare, or agency responsibilities; or who is abandoned by his or her parents or other person responsible for the child's welfare without a proper plan of care; or who has been provided with interim crisis intervention services under Section 3-5 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 and whose parent, guardian, or custodian refuses to permit the child to return home and no other living arrangement agreeable to the parent, guardian, or custodian can be made, and the parent, guardian, or custodian has not made any other appropriate living arrangement for the child; or who is a newborn infant whose blood, urine, or meconium contains any amount of a controlled substance as defined in subsection (f) of Section 102 of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act or a metabolite thereof, with the exception of a controlled substance of metabolite thereof whose presence in the newborn infant is the result of medical treatment administered to the mother or the newborn infant. A child shall not be considered neglected for the sole reason that the child's parent or other person responsible for his or her welfare has left the child in the care of an adult relative for any period of time. A child shall not be considered neglected for the sole reason that the child has been relinquished in accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. A child shall not be considered neglected for the sole reason that such child's parent or other person responsible for his or her welfare depends upon spiritual means through prayer alone for the treatment or cure of disease or remedial care as provided under Section 4 of this Act. A child shall not be considered neglected or abused solely because the child is not attending school in accordance with the requirements of Article 26 of The School Code, as amended.