

HOUSE BILL NO. 305

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/4/20

Referred: Health and Social Services, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the persons required to report child abuse or neglect or a threat of
2 harm to a child; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 22.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 22.35.040. Reporting of imminent threat to child.** A judge of the
6 superior court or district court shall immediately report to the nearest office of a law
7 enforcement agency of the state a threat of imminent harm to a child if the judge has
8 reasonable cause to suspect that there is a threat that imminent harm will occur to a
9 child between the time the judge issues a protective order under AS 18.65.850 -
10 18.65.870 or AS 18.66.100 - 18.66.180 and the time the protective order is served.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.17.020(a), as amended by sec. 131, ch. 4, FSSLA 2019, is amended to read:

12 (a) The following persons who, in the performance of **the duties associated**
13 **with a position listed in this subsection** [THEIR OCCUPATIONAL DUTIES,
14 THEIR APPOINTED DUTIES UNDER (8) OF THIS SUBSECTION, OR THEIR

1 VOLUNTEER DUTIES UNDER (9) OF THIS SUBSECTION], have reasonable
 2 cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of child abuse or neglect
 3 shall immediately report the harm to the nearest office of the department and, if the
 4 harm appears to be a result of a suspected sex offense, shall immediately report the
 5 harm to the nearest law enforcement agency:

6 (1) practitioners of the healing arts;

7 (2) school teachers and school administrative staff members, including
 8 athletic coaches, of public and private schools;

9 (3) peace officers and officers of the Department of Corrections;

10 (4) administrative officers of institutions;

11 (5) child care providers;

12 (6) paid employees of domestic violence and sexual assault programs,
 13 and crisis intervention and prevention programs as defined in AS 18.66.990;

14 (7) paid employees of an organization that provides counseling or
 15 treatment to individuals seeking to control their use of drugs or alcohol;

16 (8) members of a child fatality review team established under
 17 AS 12.65.015(e) or 12.65.120 or the multidisciplinary child protection team created
 18 under AS 47.14.300;

19 (9) volunteers who interact with children in a public or private school
 20 for more than four hours a week;

21 **(10) priests, ministers, and other individuals who are ordained,**
 22 **anointed, or appointed to perform religious duties;**

23 **(11) individuals who work at public and private animal shelters,**
 24 **whether as paid employees or volunteers;**

25 **(12) individuals who are employees of or volunteers with a fire**
 26 **department of a municipality, including firefighters and emergency medical**
 27 **technicians;**

28 **(13) individuals appointed by a court to act as guardians ad litem**
 29 **for children.**

30 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect September 1, 2020.