

1 AN ACT relating to the reporting of child abuse, neglect, or dependency.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 620.030 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) **(a)** Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is  
5 dependent, neglected, or abused shall immediately cause an oral or written  
6 report to be made to a local law enforcement agency or the Department of  
7 Kentucky State Police; the cabinet or its designated representative; the  
8 Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney; by telephone or otherwise.

9 ***If the person who causes the oral or written report to be made is employed***  
10 ***by a local law enforcement agency, the Department of Kentucky State***  
11 ***Police, the cabinet or its designated representative, the Commonwealth's***  
12 ***attorney, or a county attorney, then that person shall make the oral or***  
13 ***written report to his or her employer and to one (1) of the other entities***  
14 ***listed in this paragraph authorized to receive the report.***

15 **(b)** Any supervisor who receives from an employee a report of suspected  
16 dependency, neglect, or abuse shall promptly make a report to the proper  
17 authorities for investigation. If the cabinet receives a report of abuse or neglect  
18 allegedly committed by a person other than a parent, guardian, or person  
19 exercising custodial control or supervision, the cabinet shall refer the matter to  
20 the Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney and the local law  
21 enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police. Nothing in  
22 this section shall relieve individuals of their obligations to report.

23 (2) Any person, including but not limited to a physician, osteopathic physician, nurse,  
24 teacher, school personnel, social worker, coroner, medical examiner, child-caring  
25 personnel, resident, intern, chiropractor, dentist, optometrist, emergency medical  
26 technician, paramedic, health professional, mental health professional, peace  
27 officer, or any organization or agency for any of the above, who knows or has

1 reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent, neglected, or abused,  
2 regardless of whether the person believed to have caused the dependency, neglect,  
3 or abuse is a parent, guardian, person exercising custodial control or supervision, or  
4 another person, or who has attended such child as a part of his or her professional  
5 duties shall, if requested, in addition to the report required in subsection (1) or (3) of  
6 this section, file with the local law enforcement agency or the Department of  
7 Kentucky State Police or the Commonwealth's or county attorney, the cabinet or its  
8 designated representative within forty-eight (48) hours of the original report a  
9 written report containing:

- 10 (a) The names and addresses of the child and his or her parents or other persons  
11 exercising custodial control or supervision;
- 12 (b) The child's age;
- 13 (c) The nature and extent of the child's alleged dependency, neglect, or abuse,  
14 including any previous charges of dependency, neglect, or abuse, to this child  
15 or his or her siblings;
- 16 (d) The name and address of the person allegedly responsible for the abuse or  
17 neglect; and
- 18 (e) Any other information that the person making the report believes may be  
19 helpful in the furtherance of the purpose of this section.

20 (3) Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of  
21 human trafficking as defined in KRS 529.010 shall immediately cause an oral or  
22 written report to be made to a local law enforcement agency or the Department of  
23 Kentucky State Police; or the cabinet or its designated representative; or the  
24 Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney; by telephone or otherwise. This  
25 subsection shall apply regardless of whether the person believed to have caused the  
26 human trafficking of the child is a parent, guardian, or person exercising custodial  
27 control or supervision.

- 1 (4) Neither the husband-wife nor any professional-client/patient privilege, except the  
2 attorney-client and clergy-penitent privilege, shall be a ground for refusing to report  
3 under this section or for excluding evidence regarding a dependent, neglected, or  
4 abused child or the cause thereof, in any judicial proceedings resulting from a report  
5 pursuant to this section. This subsection shall also apply in any criminal proceeding  
6 in District or Circuit Court regarding a dependent, neglected, or abused child.
- 7 (5) The cabinet upon request shall receive from any agency of the state or any other  
8 agency, institution, or facility providing services to the child or his or her family,  
9 such cooperation, assistance, and information as will enable the cabinet to fulfill its  
10 responsibilities under KRS 620.030, 620.040, and 620.050.
- 11 (6) Any person who intentionally violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty  
12 of a:
- 13 (a) Class B misdemeanor for the first offense;
  - 14 (b) Class A misdemeanor for the second offense; and
  - 15 (c) Class D felony for each subsequent offense.