

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 300

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTS.

0681H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 192.2405 and 210.115, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to reporting of abuse or neglect, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 192.2405 and 210.115, RSMo, are repealed and six new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 192.2405, 192.2510, 210.115, 210.191,
3 273.410, and 273.415, to read as follows:

192.2405. 1. The following persons shall be required to immediately report or cause
2 a report to be made to the department under sections 192.2400 to 192.2470:

3 (1) Any person having reasonable cause to suspect that an eligible adult presents a
4 likelihood of suffering serious physical harm, or bullying as defined in subdivision (2) of
5 section 192.2400, and is in need of protective services; and

6 (2) Any adult day care worker, chiropractor, Christian Science practitioner, coroner,
7 dentist, embalmer, employee of the departments of social services, mental health, or health
8 and senior services, employee of a local area agency on aging or an organized area agency on
9 aging program, emergency medical technician, firefighter, first responder, funeral director,
10 home health agency, home health agency employee, hospital and clinic personnel engaged in
11 the care or treatment of others, in-home services owner or provider, in-home services operator
12 or employee, law enforcement officer, long-term care facility administrator or employee,
13 medical examiner, medical resident or intern, mental health professional, minister, nurse,
14 nurse practitioner, optometrist, other health practitioner, peace officer, pharmacist, physical
15 therapist, physician, physician's assistant, podiatrist, probation or parole officer, psychologist,
16 social worker, **veterinarian, animal control officer, animal humane investigator as**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 **defined in section 273.415**, or other person with the responsibility for the care of an eligible
18 adult who has reasonable cause to suspect that the eligible adult has been subjected to abuse
19 or neglect or observes the eligible adult being subjected to conditions or circumstances which
20 would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. Notwithstanding any other provision of this
21 section, a duly ordained minister, clergy, religious worker, or Christian Science practitioner
22 while functioning in his or her ministerial capacity shall not be required to report concerning a
23 privileged communication made to him or her in his or her professional capacity.

24 2. Any other person who becomes aware of circumstances that may reasonably be
25 expected to be the result of, or result in, abuse or neglect of an eligible adult may report to the
26 department.

27 3. The penalty for failing to report as required under subdivision (2) of subsection 1
28 of this section is provided under section 565.188.

29 4. As used in this section, "first responder" means any person trained and authorized
30 by law or rule to render emergency medical assistance or treatment. Such persons may
31 include, but shall not be limited to, emergency first responders, police officers, sheriffs,
32 deputy sheriffs, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, or emergency medical
33 technician-paramedics.

**192.2510. 1. All persons providing protective services to eligible adults, as such
2 terms are defined in section 192.2400, and who have direct contact with such adults shall
3 be required to complete at least one hour of training within the first sixty days of
4 employment. The training shall include the following:**

5 **(1) Requirements to report companion animal abuse or neglect and the penalties
6 associated with failure to report under section 273.410;**

7 **(2) How to identify companion animal abuse or neglect;**

8 **(3) How to make a report of companion animal abuse or neglect; and**

9 **(4) The relationship between eligible adult abuse or neglect and companion
10 animal abuse or neglect.**

11 **2. The department of health and senior services, in consultation with animal
12 welfare associations, shall develop or adapt and use available training materials for the
13 training required under this section. Persons required to complete training under this
14 section shall be provided with opportunities to do so during regular working hours.**

15 **3. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:**

16 **(1) "Animal welfare organization", a nonprofit organization that is established
17 to promote animal welfare, is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt
18 under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) or the
19 corresponding section of any future tax code, and is registered with the secretary of state
20 under chapter 355;**

21 **(2) "Companion animal", the same meaning as in section 273.410.**

210.115. 1. When any physician, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, chiropractor,
2 optometrist, podiatrist, resident, intern, nurse, hospital or clinic personnel that are engaged in
3 the examination, care, treatment or research of persons, and any other health practitioner,
4 psychologist, mental health professional, social worker, day care center worker or other child-
5 care worker, juvenile officer, probation or parole officer, jail or detention center personnel,
6 teacher, principal or other school official, minister as provided by section 352.400, peace
7 officer or law enforcement official, **veterinarian, animal control officer, animal humane**
8 **investigator as defined in section 273.415**, volunteer or personnel of a community service
9 program that offers support services for families in crisis to assist in the delegation of any
10 powers regarding the care and custody of a child by a properly executed power of attorney
11 pursuant to sections 475.600 to 475.604, or other person with responsibility for the care of
12 children has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or
13 neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would
14 reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that person shall immediately report to the division in
15 accordance with the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183. No internal investigation
16 shall be initiated until such a report has been made. As used in this section, the term "abuse"
17 is not limited to abuse inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care, custody and
18 control as specified in section 210.110, but shall also include abuse inflicted by any other
19 person.

20 2. If two or more members of a medical institution who are required to report jointly
21 have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, a single report
22 may be made by a designated member of that medical team. Any member who has
23 knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter
24 immediately make the report. Nothing in this section, however, is meant to preclude any
25 person from reporting abuse or neglect.

26 3. The reporting requirements under this section are individual, and no supervisor or
27 administrator may impede or inhibit any reporting under this section. No person making a
28 report under this section shall be subject to any sanction, including any adverse employment
29 action, for making such report. Every employer shall ensure that any employee required to
30 report pursuant to subsection 1 of this section has immediate and unrestricted access to
31 communications technology necessary to make an immediate report and is temporarily
32 relieved of other work duties for such time as is required to make any report required under
33 subsection 1 of this section.

34 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of sections 210.109 to 210.183, any child who
35 does not receive specified medical treatment by reason of the legitimate practice of the
36 religious belief of the child's parents, guardian, or others legally responsible for the child, for

37 that reason alone, shall not be found to be an abused or neglected child, and such parents,
38 guardian or other persons legally responsible for the child shall not be entered into the central
39 registry. However, the division may accept reports concerning such a child and may
40 subsequently investigate or conduct a family assessment as a result of that report. Such an
41 exception shall not limit the administrative or judicial authority of the state to ensure that
42 medical services are provided to the child when the child's health requires it.

43 5. In addition to those persons and officials required to report actual or suspected
44 abuse or neglect, any other person may report in accordance with sections 210.109 to 210.183
45 if such person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to
46 abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which
47 would reasonably result in abuse or neglect.

48 6. Any person or official required to report pursuant to this section, including
49 employees of the division, who has probable cause to suspect that a child who is or may be
50 under the age of eighteen, who is eligible to receive a certificate of live birth, has died shall
51 report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner. If, upon review of the
52 circumstances and medical information, the medical examiner or coroner determines that the
53 child died of natural causes while under medical care for an established natural disease, the
54 coroner, medical examiner or physician shall notify the division of the child's death and that
55 the child's attending physician shall be signing the death certificate. In all other cases, the
56 medical examiner or coroner shall accept the report for investigation, shall immediately notify
57 the division of the child's death as required in section 58.452 and shall report the findings to
58 the child fatality review panel established pursuant to section 210.192.

59 7. Any person or individual required to report may also report the suspicion of abuse
60 or neglect to any law enforcement agency or juvenile office. Such report shall not, however,
61 take the place of reporting to the division.

62 8. If an individual required to report suspected instances of abuse or neglect pursuant
63 to this section has reason to believe that the victim of such abuse or neglect is a resident of
64 another state or was injured as a result of an act which occurred in another state, the person
65 required to report such abuse or neglect may, in lieu of reporting to the Missouri children's
66 division, make such a report to the child protection agency of the other state with the authority
67 to receive such reports pursuant to the laws of such other state. If such agency accepts the
68 report, no report is required to be made, but may be made, to the children's division.

69 9. For the purposes of providing supportive services or verifying the status of a youth
70 as unaccompanied or homeless for the purposes of accessing supportive services, the fact that
71 a child is an unaccompanied youth as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a(6) is not, in and of
72 itself, a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect, unless the child is under sixteen
73 years of age or is an incapacitated person, as defined in section 475.010. Nothing in this

74 subsection shall limit a mandated reporter from making a report under this section if the
75 mandated reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that an unaccompanied youth has
76 been or may be a victim of abuse or neglect.

210.191. 1. All children's division employees, and contractors for children's services, who have direct contact with children through the state's child protection and welfare system shall be required to complete at least one hour of training within the first sixty days of employment or contract. The training shall include the following:

(1) Requirements to report companion animal abuse or neglect and the penalties associated with failure to report under section 273.410;

(2) How to identify companion animal abuse or neglect;

(3) How to make a report of companion animal abuse or neglect; and

(4) The relationship between child abuse or neglect and companion animal abuse or neglect.

2. The division, in consultation with animal welfare associations, shall develop or adapt and use available training materials for the training required under this section. Persons required to complete training under this section shall be provided with opportunities to do so during regular working hours.

3. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Animal welfare organization", the same meaning as in section 192.2510;

(2) "Companion animal", the same meaning as in section 273.410.

273.410. 1. When any psychologist, mental health professional, social worker, school counselor, teacher or other school professional, juvenile officer, probation or parole officer, home health aide, veterinarian, adult protective services worker, or volunteer or personnel of a community service program that offers support or advocacy services for children in foster care has reasonable cause to suspect that a companion animal has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a companion animal being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that person shall immediately make a report to the hotline established and operated by the Missouri Animal Control Association (MACA).

2. The hotline worker shall request all of the following information for the report:

(1) The name and description of the companion animal involved, if known;

(2) The address and telephone number of the owner or other person responsible for the care of the companion animal, if known;

(3) The nature and extent of the suspected abuse or neglect;

16 **(4) Any other information that the person making the report believes may be**
17 **useful in establishing the existence of the suspected abuse or neglect or the identity of the**
18 **person causing the abuse or neglect.**

19 **3. Upon receiving a report of suspected abuse or neglect, MACA shall provide**
20 **the report to any duly-authorized law enforcement official, county or municipal animal**
21 **control officer, or any Missouri peace officer standards and training (POST)- certified**
22 **or MACA-certified animal cruelty investigator.**

23 **4. Any person required to report companion animal abuse or neglect under this**
24 **section shall be immune from civil or criminal liability in connection with making any**
25 **required report if the person acted in good faith when making such report.**

26 **5. No person required to make a report of companion animal abuse or neglect**
27 **under this section shall knowingly make a false report. The penalty for making a false**
28 **report and the defenses to prosecution shall be the same as under section 575.080.**

29 **6. If an agency or political subdivision of the state determines that an employee**
30 **who is a mandated reporter under this section has failed to make a report as required by**
31 **this section, the agency or political subdivision shall issue a written notice to such**
32 **employee that shall include a finding of facts in support of the failure to make a report**
33 **and an explanation of the reporting requirement. Such notice shall not be retained in a**
34 **permanent employment file and shall be retained in a separate file or database**
35 **maintained by the agency or political subdivision. Such notice shall be considered a**
36 **closed record under the provisions of chapter 610.**

37 **7. Any person required to make a report under this section who is subject to**
38 **professional licensure and who fails to make a report as required by this section shall be**
39 **subject to discipline by his or her respective licensing board as follows:**

40 **(1) For the first instance of a failure to report, the licensing board shall issue a**
41 **written notice to such employee that shall include a finding of facts in support of the**
42 **failure to make a report and an explanation of the reporting requirement;**

43 **(2) For a second instance of a failure to report, the licensing board shall impose a**
44 **fine of one hundred dollars;**

45 **(3) For a third and each subsequent instance of a failure to report, the licensing**
46 **board shall impose a fine of five hundred dollars.**

47 **8. As used in this section, the term "companion animal" means a living creature**
48 **maintained by a household member for companionship and not commercial purposes.**

273.415. 1. All persons employed or serving as animal control officers or animal
2 **humane investigators who have direct contact with companion animals shall be required**
3 **to complete at least one hour of training within the first sixty days of employment. The**
4 **training shall include the following:**

5 **(1) Requirements to report child abuse or neglect under section 210.115 or**
6 **eligible person abuse or neglect under section 192.2405 and the penalties associated with**
7 **failure to report such abuse or neglect;**

8 **(2) How to identify child or eligible person abuse or neglect;**

9 **(3) How to make a report of child or eligible person abuse or neglect; and**

10 **(4) The relationship between child, eligible adult, and companion animal abuse**
11 **or neglect.**

12 **2. The children's division and the department of health and senior services, in**
13 **consultation with animal welfare associations, shall develop or adapt and use available**
14 **training materials for the training required under this section. Persons required to**
15 **complete training under this section shall be provided with opportunities to do so during**
16 **regular working hours.**

17 **3. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:**

18 **(1) "Animal humane investigator", a duly-authorized county or municipal**
19 **animal control officer or any Missouri peace officer standards and training (POST)-**
20 **certified or Missouri Animal Control Association (MACA)-certified animal cruelty**
21 **investigator;**

22 **(2) "Animal welfare organization", the same meaning as in section 192.2510;**

23 **(3) "Companion animal", the same meaning as in section 273.410.**

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