

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2292
AN ACT

To amend chapters 192, 210, and 273, RSMo, by adding thereto six new sections relating to reporting of abuse and neglect by certain professionals, with penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Chapters 192, 210, and 273, RSMo, are amended
2 by adding thereto six new sections, to be known as sections
3 192.2510, 210.191, 273.410, 273.415, 273.420, and 273.425, to
4 read as follows:

192.2510. 1. No later than December 31, 2027, all
2 persons providing protective services to eligible adults, as
3 the terms "protective services" and "eligible adults" are
4 defined in section 192.2400, and who have direct contact
5 with such adults shall be required to complete at least one
6 and one-half hour of training as described in this
7 subsection. Any person beginning employment after December
8 31, 2027, who provides protective services to eligible
9 adults and who has direct contact with such adults shall
10 complete such training within sixty days of beginning
11 employment. The training shall include the following:

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

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

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

18 (4) The relationship between eligible adult abuse or
19 neglect and animal abuse or neglect.

20 2. By December 31, 2026, the department of health and
21 senior services and the department of agriculture, in
22 consultation with the Missouri Animal Control Association,
23 or a successor entity, and animal welfare associations,
24 shall develop or adapt and use available training materials
25 for the training required under this section.

26 3. Persons required to complete training under this
27 section shall be provided with opportunities to do so during
28 regular working hours. The training may qualify as part of
29 any continuing education requirements otherwise required for
30 such person as a condition of licensure or employment.

31 4. As used in this section, the following terms shall
32 mean:

33 (1) "Animal", dogs, cats, rabbits, and domesticated
34 birds;

35 (2) "Animal welfare association", a nonprofit
36 organization that is established to promote animal welfare,
37 is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt
38 under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code Section
39 501(c) (3) or 501(c) (4), or the corresponding section of any
40 future tax code, and is registered with the secretary of
41 state under chapter 355;

42 (3) "Successor entity", any entity designated as such
43 jointly by the department of health and senior services and
44 the children's division.

45 5. The provisions of this section shall expire on
46 December 31, 2030.

210.191. 1. No later than December 31, 2027, all
2 children's division employees and contractors for children's

3 services who have direct contact with children through the
4 state's child protection and welfare system shall be
5 required to complete at least one and one-half hour of
6 training as described in this subsection. Any children's
7 division employee and contractor for children's services
8 beginning employment after December 31, 2027, who has direct
9 contact with children through the state's child protection
10 and welfare system shall complete such training within sixty
11 days of beginning employment. The training shall include
12 the following:

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

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

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

18 and

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

21 2. By December 31, 2026, the division and the
22 department of agriculture, in consultation with the Missouri
23 Animal Control Association, or a successor entity, and
24 animal welfare associations, shall develop or adapt and use
25 available training materials for the training required under
26 this section.

27 3. Persons required to complete training under this
28 section shall be provided with opportunities to do so during
29 regular working hours. The training may qualify as part of
30 any continuing education requirements otherwise required for
31 such person as a condition of licensure or employment.

32 4. As used in this section, the following terms shall
33 mean:

34 (1) "Animal", dogs, cats, rabbits, and domesticated
35 birds;

36 (2) "Animal welfare association", the same meaning as
37 in section 192.2510;

38 (3) "Successor entity", any entity designated as such
39 jointly by the department of health and senior services and
40 the children's division.

41 5. The provisions of this section shall expire on
42 December 31, 2030.

273.410. 1. When any psychologist, mental health
2 professional, social worker, school counselor, teacher, or
3 other school professional, or juvenile officer, law
4 enforcement or peace officer, probation or parole officer,
5 home health aide, adult or child protective services worker,
6 or volunteer or personnel of a community service program
7 that offers support or advocacy services for children in
8 foster care has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal
9 has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes
10 an animal being subjected to conditions or circumstances
11 that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that
12 person shall make a report to the hotline established and
13 operated by the Missouri Animal Control Association (MACA),
14 or a successor entity, within one day. As used in this
15 section, "reasonable cause" shall mean that abuse or neglect
16 is more likely than not to have occurred.

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

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

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

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

26 (4) Any other information that the person making the
27 report believes may be useful in establishing the existence
28 of the suspected abuse or neglect or the identity of the
29 person causing the abuse or neglect.

30 3. Upon receiving a report of suspected abuse or
31 neglect, MACA, or a successor entity, shall provide the
32 report to any duly-authorized law enforcement official and,
33 if appropriate, a county or municipal animal control officer
34 or any Missouri peace officer standards and training (POST)-
35 certified or MACA-certified animal cruelty investigator.

36 4. Any person required to report animal abuse or
37 neglect under this section shall be immune from civil and
38 criminal liability in connection with making any required
39 reports if the person acted in good faith when making such
40 report.

41 5. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the
42 contrary, any information identifying a person who reports
43 suspected animal abuse or neglect under this section shall
44 be confidential and shall not be deemed a public record and
45 shall not be subject to the provisions of section 109.180 or
46 chapter 610.

47 6. No person required to make a report of animal abuse
48 or neglect under this section shall knowingly make a false
49 report. The penalty for making a false report and the
50 defenses to prosecution shall be the same as under section
51 575.080.

52 7. If an agency or political subdivision of the state
53 determines that an employee who is a mandated reporter under
54 this section has failed to make a report as required by this
55 section, the agency or political subdivision shall issue a
56 written notice to such employee that shall include a finding
57 of facts in support of the failure to make a report and an
58 explanation of the reporting requirement. Such notice shall

59 not be retained in a permanent employment file and shall be
60 retained in a separate file or database maintained by the
61 agency or political subdivision. Such notice shall be
62 considered a closed record under the provisions of chapter
63 610.

64 8. Any person required to make a report under this
65 section who is subject to professional licensure and who
66 fails to make a report as required by this section shall be
67 subject to discipline by his or her respective licensing
68 board.

69 9. The duty to report animal abuse or neglect and any
70 associated penalties for failure to report animal abuse or
71 neglect imposed under this section shall not be in effect
72 during any period in which the hotline established and
73 operated by MACA, or a successor entity, has yet to begin or
74 has otherwise ceased operation and shall resume when the
75 hotline is operational.

76 10. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

77 (1) "Animal", dogs, cats, rabbits, and domesticated
78 birds;

79 (2) "Successor entity", any entity designated as such
80 jointly by the department of health and senior services and
81 the children's division.

82 11. The provisions of this section shall expire on
83 December 31, 2030.

273.415. 1. No later than December 31, 2027, all
2 persons employed or serving as animal control officers or
3 animal humane investigators who have direct contact with
4 animals shall be required to complete at least one and one-
5 half hour of training as described in this subsection. Any
6 person beginning employment after December 31, 2027, as an
7 animal control officer or animal humane investigator who has
8 direct contact with animals shall complete such training

9 within sixty days of beginning employment or service. The
10 training shall include the following:

11 (1) Requirements to report child abuse or neglect or
12 eligible person abuse or neglect under section 273.420 and
13 the penalties associated with failure to report such abuse
14 or neglect;

15 (2) How to identify child or eligible adult abuse or
16 neglect;

17 (3) How to make a report of child or eligible adult
18 abuse or neglect; and

19 (4) The relationship between child, eligible adult,
20 and animal abuse or neglect.

21 2. By December 31, 2026, the children's division, the
22 department of health and senior services, and the department
23 of agriculture, in consultation with the Missouri Animal
24 Control Association, or a successor entity, and animal
25 welfare associations, shall develop or adapt and use
26 available training materials for the training required under
27 this section.

28 3. Persons required to complete training under this
29 section shall be provided with opportunities to do so during
30 regular working hours. The training may qualify as part of
31 any continuing education requirements otherwise required for
32 such person as a condition of licensure or employment.

33 4. As used in this section, the following terms shall
34 mean:

35 (1) "Animal", dogs, cats, rabbits, and domesticated
36 birds;

37 (2) "Animal humane investigator", a duly-authorized
38 county or municipal animal control officer or any Missouri
39 peace officer standards and training (POST)-certified or
40 Missouri Animal Control Association (MACA)-certified animal
41 cruelty investigator;

42 (3) "Animal welfare association", the same meaning as
43 in section 192.2510;

44 (4) "Successor entity", any entity designated as such
45 jointly by the department of health and senior services and
46 the children's division.

47 5. The provisions of this section shall expire on
48 December 31, 2030.

273.420. 1. Beginning January 1, 2028, any animal
2 control officer or animal humane investigator, as defined in
3 section 273.415, shall immediately report or cause a report
4 to be made to the department of health and senior services
5 if such person has reasonable cause to suspect that an
6 eligible adult, as such term is defined in section 192.2400,
7 has been subject to abuse or neglect or observes the
8 eligible adult being subjected to conditions or
9 circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or
10 neglect.

11 2. Beginning January 1, 2028, any animal control
12 officer or animal humane investigator shall immediately
13 report or cause a report to be made to the children's
14 division, in accordance with the provisions of sections
15 210.109 to 210.183, if such person has reasonable cause to
16 suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse
17 or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions
18 or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or
19 neglect.

20 3. Any person required to report under this section
21 may also report the suspicion of abuse or neglect to any law
22 enforcement agency or juvenile office. Such report shall
23 not, however, take the place of reporting to the department
24 or the division.

25 4. The penalty for failing to report as required under
26 this section shall be a class A misdemeanor.

27 5. As used in this section, the term "reasonable
28 cause" shall mean that abuse or neglect is more likely than
29 not to have occurred.

30 6. The provisions of this section shall expire on
31 December 31, 2030.

273.425. 1. The Missouri Animal Control Association,
2 or a successor entity, in collaboration with the department
3 of health and senior services and the children's division,
4 shall provide a report to the governor and general assembly
5 by December 31, 2028, and again by November 1, 2029, that
6 shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

7 (1) Call wait times for all types of abuse or neglect
8 reporting;

9 (2) Number of eligible adults, children, and animals
10 for which reports have been submitted under sections 273.415
11 and 273.420; and

12 (3) Number of reports in which investigation
13 determined that eligible adult or child abuse or neglect and
14 animal abuse or neglect have been found to be connected, co-
15 occurring, or otherwise related.

16 2. The report provided under this section shall not
17 include any information otherwise prohibited from disclosure
18 under state or federal law.

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

21 (1) "Eligible adult", shall have the same meaning as
22 defined in section 192.2400;

23 (2) "Successor entity", any entity designated as such
24 jointly by the department of health and senior services and
25 the children's division.

26 4. The provisions of this section shall expire on
27 December 31, 2030.