

WORLDWIDE CSA MANDATORY REPORTING LAWS BY JURISDICTION FOR CHURCHES						
For information purposes only - not legal advice. Last updated 6 May 2025						
Country	State, Province or Territory	Statutory provision	Who	Report suspicion of current or future abuse	Report past abuse	Exceptions
Australia						
	Australian Capital Territory	Crimes Act 1900 s 66AA	Any adult	Gains information that causes the adult to believe on reasonable grounds, or ought reasonably to cause the adult to believe, that a child sexual offence is being committed against a child under age 16 by another adult	Gains information that causes the adult to believe on reasonable grounds, or ought reasonably to cause the adult to believe, that a child sexual offence has been committed against a child under age 16 by another adult	No exception for religious confession (s 66AA(3), Evidence Act 2007 s 127)
	Australian Capital Territory	Children and Young People Act 2008 s 356	A minister of religion, religious leader or member of the clergy of a church or religious denomination	Believe on reasonable grounds that child under age 18 is experiencing sexual abuse	Believe on reasonable grounds that child under age 18 has experienced sexual abuse	No exception for religious confession (Evidence Act 2007 s 127)
	New South Wales	Crimes Act 1900 s 316A	Any adult		Know, believe or reasonably ought to know that a child abuse offence has been committed	Exception for contents of a religious confession made to clergy member (Evidence Act 1995 s 127)
	New South Wales	Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 s 27	Person in religious ministry or person providing religion-based activities to children	Suspect on reasonable grounds that child under age 16 is at risk of significant harm		Exception for contents of a religious confession made to clergy member (Evidence Act 1995 s 127)
	Northern Territory	Care and Protection of Children Act 2007 s 26	Any person	Believe on reasonable grounds that child under age 14 is likely to be a victim of a sexual offence	Believe on reasonable grounds that child under age 14 has been a victim of a sexual offence	Exception for contents of a religious confession made to clergy member (Evidence (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 s 127)
	Queensland	Criminal Code Act 1899 s 229BC	Any adult	Believe or ought to believe on reasonable grounds that child sexual offence is being committed against child under age 16	Believe or ought to believe on reasonable grounds that child sexual offence has been committed against child under age 16	No exception for religious confession (s 229BC(3))
	Queensland	Child Protection Act 1999 s 13E	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			
	South Australia	Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 s 31	Minister of religion	Suspect on reasonable grounds that child under age 18 is or may be at risk		
	Tasmania	Criminal Code Act 1924 s 105A	Any person		Reasonable belief that abuse offence was committed against child under age 17	No exception for religious confession (s 105A(5))
	Tasmania	Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997 s 14	A member of the clergy of any church or religious denomination	Believe or suspect on reasonable grounds that there is a reasonable likelihood of a child under age 18 being abused	Believe or suspect on reasonable grounds that a child under age 18 is or has been abused	

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	Victoria	Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 s 184	A person appointed, ordained or otherwise recognised as a religious or spiritual leader in a religious institution. Example: church elder, deacon, religious minister	Believe on reasonable grounds that child under age 17 is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of sexual abuse and the child's parents are unlikely to protect the child	Believe on reasonable grounds that child under age 17 has suffered significant harm as a result of sexual abuse and the child's parents have not protected the child	No exception for religious confession (Evidence Act 2008 s 127(2))
	Victoria	Crimes Act 1958 s 327	A person over age 18		Form a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed against child under age 16	No exception for religious confession (Evidence Act 2008 s 127(2))
	Western Australia	Children and Community Services Act 2004 s 124B	Minister of religion	Believe on reasonable grounds that a child under age 18 is the subject of ongoing sexual abuse	Believe on reasonable grounds that a child under age 18 was the subject of sexual abuse on or after 1 March 2006	No exception for religious confession (s 124BA)
Bermuda		Children Act 2008 s 20	Every person	Has information indicating that a child is suffering	Has information indicating that a child has suffered significant harm	
		Children Act 2008 s 20	Member of the clergy	In the course of professional duties, has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is suffering	In the course of professional duties, has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has suffered significant harm	
Canada						
	British Columbia	Child, Family and Community Service Act s 14	Any person	Reason to believe that a child under age 19 is likely to be sexually abused and the child's parent is unable or unwilling to protect the child	Reason to believe that a child under age 19 has been sexually abused and the child's parent is unable or unwilling to protect the child	
	Alberta	Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act s 4	Any person	Reasonable and probable grounds to believe there is a substantial risk that a child under age 18 will be sexually abused by the guardian or guardian is unwilling or unable to protect the child from sexual abuse		
	Saskatchewan	The Child and Family Services Act s 12	Any person	Reasonable grounds to believe that a child under age 16 is likely to be sexually exploited or exposed or subjected to harmful interaction for a sexual purpose	Reasonable grounds to believe that a child under age 16 has been sexually exploited or exposed or subjected to harmful interaction for a sexual purpose	

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	Manitoba	The Child and Family Services Act s 18	Any person	Information that leads the person reasonably to believe that a child under age 18 is sexually exploited or is in danger of being sexually exploited		
	Ontario	Child, Youth and Family Services Act s 125	Any person	Reasonable grounds to suspect that there is a risk that a child under age 16 is likely to be sexually abused or sexually exploited where the person having charge of the child fails to protect the child	Reasonable grounds to suspect that a child under age 16 has been sexually abused or sexually exploited and the person having charge of the child fails to protect the child	
	Quebec	Youth Protection Act s 39	Professional who provides care or any other form of assistance to children	Reasonable grounds to believe that the security or development of a child under age 18 is or may be considered to be in danger due to sexual abuse		
	New Brunswick	Family Services Act s 30	Any person		Has information causing person to suspect that a child under age 19 has been sexually ill-treated	
	Nova Scotia	Children and Family Services Act s 23	Any person	Has information indicating that there is a substantial risk that child under age 19 will be sexually abused and parent or guardian will fail to protect the child	Has information indicating that a child under age 19 has been sexually abused and parent or guardian fails to protect the child	
	Prince Edward Island	Child Protection Act s 10	Any person	Knowledge or reasonable grounds to suspect that a child under age 18 is at substantial risk of sexual abuse and parent fails to protect the child	Knowledge or reasonable grounds to suspect that a child under age 18 has been sexually abused and parent failed to protect the child	
	Newfoundland	Children, Youth and Families Act s 11	Any person	Has information that a child under age 18 is being, or is at risk of being, sexually abused or exploited and parent does not protect the child		Clergy member can't be compelled to give evidence as to a confession made to him or her in professional capacity.

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	Yukon	Child and Family Services Act s 22	Any person	Reason to believe that a child under age 19 is, or is likely to be, sexually abused or exploited and parent does not protect the child		
	Northwest Territories	Child and Family Service Act s 8	Any person	Has information that there is a substantial risk that a child under age 16 will be sexually molested or sexually exploited in circumstances where parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child	Has information that a child under age 16 has been sexually molested or sexually exploited in circumstances where parent was unwilling or unable to protect the child	
	Nunavut	Child and Family Services Act s 8	Any person	Has information or reasonable grounds to believe that there is a substantial risk that a child under age 16 will be sexually molested or sexually exploited in circumstances where parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child	Has information or reasonable grounds to believe that a child under age 16 has been sexually molested or sexually exploited in circumstances where parent was unwilling or unable to protect the child	
England		No duty to report				
France		Art. 434-3, Code pénal	Anyone	Has knowledge of sexual assault or abuse of a minor		
India		Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act 2012 s 19	Any person	Has apprehension that a sexual offence against a child under age 18 is likely to be committed	Has apprehension that a sexual offence against a child under age 18 has been committed	
Ireland		Children First Act 2015 s 14	Member of the clergy or pastoral care worker	Knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect on the basis of information acquired in the course of employment that a child under age 18 is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed	Knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect on the basis of information acquired in the course of employment that a child under age 18 has been harmed	
New Zealand		No duty to report				

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Northern Ireland		Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 s 5	Any person		Knows or believes that an arrestable offence (eg a sexual offence against a child) has been committed and has information likely to secure apprehension, prosecution, or conviction	
Scotland		No duty to report				
South Africa		Children's Amendment Act No 41 of 2007 s 110	Religious leader		On reasonable grounds concludes that a child under age 18 has been sexually abused	
South Africa		Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007	Any person		Has knowledge that a sexual offence has been committed against a child under age 18	
United States of America						
	Alabama	Ala. Code § 26-14-3	Members of the clergy	Child is known or suspected to be a victim of child abuse		No mandatory reporting requirement for information gained solely in a confidential communication between a person and a clergyman in clergyman's professional capacity
	Alaska	Alaska Stat. § 47.17.020	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES, EXCEPT FOR RELIGIOUS HEALING PRACTITIONERS			
	American Samoa	Ann. Code § 45.2002	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			
	Arizona	Rev. Stat. § 13-3620	Members of the clergy	Reasonably believes that a minor is the victim of child abuse that is not accidental in nature	Reasonably believes that a minor has been the victim of child abuse that is not accidental in nature	Clergy member who has received a confidential communication or a confession may withhold reporting of the communication or confession if reasonable and necessary within the concepts of the religion
	Arkansas	Ann. Code § 12-18-402	A clergy member	Observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in child maltreatment	Has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to child maltreatment	No mandatory reporting where clergy member acquired information through communication that denomination requires to be kept confidential or through admission from the alleged offender

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	California	Penal Code § 11166	Clergy member		Has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandatory reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse	A clergy member who acquires knowledge or a reasonable suspicion of child abuse during a confidential communication that church practices require the clergy member to keep secret is not required to report
	Colorado	Rev. Stat. § 19-3-304	Clergy member	Has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions that would reasonably result in abuse	Reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse. Unless didn't learn of abuse until victim was over age 18 and does not have reasonable cause to suspect that perpetrator is a current abuser or is in a position of trust	Clergy member doesn't have to report if reasonable cause comes from confidential communications to which clergy-penitent privilege applies, unless there is also reasonable cause from a source other than the confidential communication
	Connecticut	Gen. Stat. § 17a-101a	Any member of the clergy	In the ordinary course of profession has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under age 18 is placed at imminent risk of serious harm	In the ordinary course of profession has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under age 18 has been abused	
	Delaware	Ann. Code tit. 16, § 903	Any person	Knows or in good faith suspects child abuse		No mandatory reporting for privilege between priest and penitent in a sacramental confession
	District of Columbia	Ann. Code § 4-1321.02	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			
	Florida	Ann. Stat. § 39.201	Any person	Knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is the victim of sexual abuse or juvenile sexual abuse		No mandatory reporting requirement for a confidential communication by a person to a clergy member in his or her capacity as spiritual adviser
	Georgia	Ann. Code §§ 19-7-5	Clergy member		Having reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred	No mandatory reporting requirement for confession or other similar communication required to be kept confidential under church doctrine or practice. Information from any other source must be reported

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	Guam	Ann. Code tit. 19, § 13201	Clergy member or other similar functionary whose primary duties consist of teaching, spreading the faith, church governance, supervision of a religious order, or supervision or participation in religious ritual and worship	Has reason to suspect on the basis of his training and experience that a child is an abused child		
	Hawaii	Rev. Stat. § 350-1.1	Members of the clergy or custodians of their records	Reason to believe that there exists a substantial risk that child abuse may occur in the reasonably foreseeable future	Reason to believe that child abuse has occurred	A clergy member who acquires knowledge or a reasonable suspicion of child abuse during a confidential communication that church practices require the clergy member to keep secret is not required to report, unless there is also reportable information from another source
	Idaho	Idaho Code § 16-1605	Any person	Observes a child subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse	Reason to believe that child under age 18 has been abused	Reporting requirements do not apply to a duly ordained minister of religion with regard to any confession or confidential communication
	Illinois	Comp. Stat. Ch. 325, § 5/4	Member of the clergy	Reasonable cause to believe that a child known to them in their professional capacity may be an abused child		Member of the clergy may not be compelled to disclose confession or admission made to him or her as part of the discipline of the religion or divulge information obtained as spiritual adviser
	Indiana	Ann. Code § 31-33-5-1	Any individual	Reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse		
	Iowa	Ann. Stat. §§ 232.69	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			
	Kansas	Ann. Stat. § 38-2223	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			
	Kentucky	Rev. Stat. § 620.030	Any person	Knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused		Clergy-penitent privilege is a ground for refusing to report

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	Louisiana	Children's Code art. 609	Member of the clergy	Has cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse	Has cause to believe that abuse was a contributing factor in a child's death	Not required to report a confidential communication from a person to a member of the clergy who is authorized to hear confidential communications and who has a duty to keep communications confidential under church tenets
	Maine	Rev. Stat. tit. 22, § 4011-A	A clergy member	As a result of information acquired as a result of clerical professional work, knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is likely to be abused	As a result of information acquired as a result of clerical professional work, knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused	No reporting is required for information received during confidential communications
	Maryland	Fam. Law § 5-705	A person		Has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse	No mandatory reporting by a minister of the gospel of matter in relation to confession or communication made in confidence by a person seeking spiritual advice and minister is bound to maintain confidentiality under church doctrine or practice
	Massachusetts	Gen. Laws ch. 119, § 51A	Clergy member; church leader; person employed by church to supervise, educate, coach, train or counsel a child on a regular basis	In professional capacity, has reasonable cause to believe that a child is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting from sexual abuse		Clergy member need not report information solely gained in a confession or similarly confidential communication
	Michigan	Comp. Laws § 722.623	Member of the clergy	Reasonable cause to suspect child abuse		
	Minnesota	Ann. Stat. § 260E.06	Member of the clergy	Knows or has reason to believe a child is being maltreated	Knows or has reason to believe a child has been maltreated within the preceding three years	No reporting is required for confession without the consent of the individual making the confession if required to be confidential by church rules or practice. No reporting is required for communication with clergy by person seeking religious or spiritual counselling without the consent of that person

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	Mississippi	Ann. Code § 43-21-353	Any person, including minister	Has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused child or a victim of commercial sexual exploitation		
	Missouri	Rev. Stat. §§ 210.115	Minister	Reasonable cause to suspect that a child may be subjected to abuse or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse	Reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse	Not required to report concerning a privileged communication made to minister in professional capacity
	Montana	Ann. Code § 41-3-201	A member of the clergy	Know or have reasonable cause to suspect, as a result of information they receive in their professional or official capacity, that a child is abused by anyone		No reporting is required if knowledge or suspicion of abuse came from a statement or confession that was part of confidential communication between clergy member and church member and church member does not consent to disclosure. Or if communication is required to be confidential by church practice
	Nebraska	Rev. Stat. § 28-711	Any person	Observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse	Has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse	
	Nevada	Rev. Stat. § 432B.220	Member of the clergy		In professional capacity, knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused	No reporting is required if the clergy member acquired the knowledge of the abuse from the offender during a confession
	New Hampshire	Rev. Stat. § 169-C:29	Minister or any other person		Has reason to suspect that a child has been abused	
	New Jersey	Ann. Stat. § 9:6-8.10	Any person		Has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse, including sexual abuse, or acts of child abuse	
	New Mexico	Ann. Stat. § 32A-4-3	Member of the clergy	Knows or has a reasonable suspicion that a child is an abused child		No reporting is required for information that is privileged as a matter of law
	New York	Soc. Serv. Law § 413	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			

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	North Carolina	Gen. Stat. § 7B-301	Any person	Has cause to suspect that any juvenile is abused		
	North Dakota	Cent. Code § 50-25.1-03	Member of the clergy	In professional capacity, has knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect a child is abused	In professional capacity, has knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect a child has died as a result of abuse	Not required to report if the knowledge or suspicion is derived from information received in the capacity of spiritual adviser
	Northern Mariana Islands	Commonwealth Code tit. 6, § 5313	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			
	Ohio	Rev. Code § 2151.421	Cleric or non-volunteer church leader, official or delegate	Knows, or has reasonable cause to believe based on facts that would cause a reasonable person in a similar position to believe, that a child under age 18 faces a threat of suffering a wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse caused by another cleric or non-volunteer church leader, official, or delegate	Knows, or has reasonable cause to believe based on facts that would cause a reasonable person in a similar position to believe, that a child under age 18 has suffered a wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse caused by another cleric or non-volunteer church leader, official, or delegate	No requirement to report communication received in a cleric-penitent relationship if cleric could not testify with respect to that communication, unless penitent is an abused child under age 18
	Oklahoma	Stat. Ann. Tit. 10A, § 1-2-101	Every person	Has reason to believe that a child under age 18 is a victim of abuse		
	Oregon	Rev. Stat. § 419B.010	Member of the clergy		Reasonable cause to believe that a child that clergy member comes in contact with has suffered abuse or a person that clergy member comes in contact with has abused a child	No reporting is required for information that is privileged as a matter of law
	Pennsylvania	Cons. Stat. ch. 23, § 6311	Clergyman, minister or spiritual leader	Has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse		Where minister in the course of his duties has acquired information from any person secretly and in confidence, no reporting without the consent of that person
	Puerto Rico	Ann. Laws tit. 8, § 446	Any person	Has knowledge of or suspects that a minor is a victim of abuse		
	Rhode Island	Gen. Laws § 40-11-3	Any person		Has reasonable cause to know or suspect that any child has been abused or has been a victim of sexual abuse by another child	

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	South Carolina	Ann. Code § 63-7-310	Member of the clergy	In professional capacity, has received information that gives him reason to believe that a child may be abused	In professional capacity, has received information that gives him reason to believe that a child has been abused	No mandatory reporting for information received from alleged perpetrator in confidential communication that is protected by clergy-penitent privilege
	South Dakota	Codified Laws § 26-8A-3	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			
	Tennessee	Ann. Code § 37-1-605	Any person		Knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused	
	Texas	Fam. Code § 261.101	Any person		Reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse by any person	Requirement applies without exception to clergy members
	Utah	Ann. Code § 80-2-602	Any person	Observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse	Has reason to believe that a child has been the subject of abuse	No reporting is required for confession without the consent of the individual making the confession if required to be confidential by church practice. Information from a source other than confession must be reported. Not exempt from other efforts required by law to prevent further abuse
	Vermont	Ann. Stat. tit. 33, § 4913	Member of the clergy	Reasonably suspects abuse of a child		No mandatory reporting of information received in capacity as spiritual advisor in a confidential communication intended to be an act of contrition or a matter of conscience. Information received in another manner must be reported.
	Virgin Islands	Ann. Code tit. 5, § 2533	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			

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	Virginia	Ann. Code § 63.2-1509	Any minister of any religious organization or denomination usually referred to as a church	In their professional capacity, have reason to suspect that a child is an abused child		No mandatory reporting if doctrine of religious organization or denomination requires information to be kept confidential. No mandatory reporting for confidential communication between minister and person seeking spiritual counsel and advice
	Washington	Rev. Code § 26.44.030	Adult residing with child		Reasonable cause to believe that child has suffered severe sexual abuse. Does not apply if child is now adult unless reasonable cause to believe other children may be at risk.	
	Washington	Rev. Code § 26.44.030	Member of the clergy		Reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect.	
	West Virginia	Ann. Code § 49-2-803	Member of the clergy	Has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused, including sexual abuse or sexual assault, or observes the child being subjected to conditions that are likely to result in abuse.		
	Wisconsin	Ann. Stat. § 48.981	Member of the clergy	Reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen in the course of professional duties has been threatened with abuse and abuse is likely to occur. Or reasonable cause to suspect that a clergy member has threatened a child with abuse and abuse is likely to occur	Reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen in the course of professional duties has been abused. Or reasonable cause to suspect that a clergy member has abused a child	No duty to report information received solely through confidential communications made privately or in a confessional setting if expected to keep secret under tenets of religion
	Wyoming	Ann. Stat. § 14-3-205	Any person	Observes any child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse	Knows or has reasonable cause to believe or suspect that a child has been abused	
Wales		Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 s 130	DOES NOT APPLY TO CHURCHES			