

There were several Louisiana laws designed to protect children which were added or updated in the 2012 Legislative Session. Some of them are summarized as follows:

**Act 638** -Makes it a crime for any person having knowledge of the commission of any homicide, rape, or sexual abuse of a child to fail to report or disclose such information to a law enforcement agency or district attorney unless the person is bound by any privilege of confidentiality recognized by law.

**Act 268**

-Any person 18 years of age or older who witnesses sexual abuse of a child and willfully fails to report as required by law shall be guilty of a felony

-Failure of an individual who is required by law to report abuse results in a misdemeanor or felony

**Mandatory Reporters According to Louisiana State Law (expanded):**

Health practitioner, mental health/social service practitioner, teacher or child care provider (is any person who provides training and supervision of a child, including any public or private teacher, teacher's aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member, social worker, probation officer, foster home parent, group home or other child care institutional staff member, personnel of residential home facilities, a licensed or unlicensed day care provider, or any individual who provides such services to a child. ), police officer or law enforcement, commercial film and photographic print processor, mediators, clergy, any person over the age of 18 who witnesses sexual abuse of a child, anyone who assists in teaching children, bus driver, coach, professor or university staff member whether paid or volunteer, organizational or youth activity provider (which means any person who is providing organized activities for children, including administrators, employees, volunteers of any day camp, summer camp, youth center or youth recreation program or other organization that provides organized activities for children)

**Reporting All Personnel** According to diocesan policy, all clergy, volunteers and employees are considered to be mandated reporters.

**Department of Children and Family Services Hotline:**

855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) toll free 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

All other reports (non-caretaker abuse reports): call local police or sheriff

**24-HOUR DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE: (225) 242-0250**