

Ohio Police as Mandated Reporters

[Ohio was the last state in the nation](#) to make police officers mandated reporters of abuse and neglect. Police officers are often in a position to observe potential indicators of abuse or neglect.

In 2019, [HB 137 passed](#). This bill amended Section 2151.42 of the Ohio Revised Code to make municipal and county police officers mandatory reporters of abuse and neglect.

Many thanks to [Director Michael Weinman](#) and the FOP for being a proponent of this bill.

Recommending Standardized Form and Procedure

Learning from the example of other states:

- a. [California Suspected Child Abuse Report](#)
- b. [Arkansas Suspected Child Abuse Report](#)
- c. Massachusetts: Police are required to file a [51A report](#).

Inviting FOP Insights in Design

Initial feedback in combining the three forms:

Overall Format:

1. Follow Arkansas' example of having one or more police logos on the top of the page, so that law enforcement officials know that this form is meant for them
2. Follow Massachusetts' example of including the procedure that the top of the page, to make an oral report and to send the written report within 48 hours.
3. Utilize the succinct nature of the California report.
4. Police are busy — use check boxes.
5. Important to gain insight from police re: making sure the form isn't too long, making it similar to other forms that they are familiar with, etc.

Details to Prioritize:

- What is the child or teen's relationship to the adult who might be abusing or neglecting them?
- Number of children or teens in the residence and ages if possible.
- Does the child or teen have visible injuries?
- Does the child or teen appear malnourished?
- Checkbox for related concerns (as per Massachusetts form)