



DCF Legislative Testimony

March 10, 2025

TESTIMONY OF: Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary, Department for Children and Families

TESTIMONY ON: Information on Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

DCF | Informational Hearing On Mandated Reporting

Chair Howerton and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect.

In Kansas, mandated reporters are required to report child abuse or neglect under the Kansas reporting law K.S.A. 38-2223, *Reporting of certain abuse or neglect of children; persons required to report; reports, made to whom; penalties; immunity from liability*. Mandated reporters defined in (K.S.A. 38-2223)(a)(A-F) with reason to suspect that a child has been harmed as a result of physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect or sexual abuse shall report the matter promptly as provided in subsections (b) and (c).

Persons required to report (summarized):

- *Persons providing medical care or treatment*
- *Persons licensed by the state to provide mental health services*
- *Teachers, school administrators and other employees of an educational institution that the child is attending and any member of the board of directors of the Kansas state high school activities association referenced in K.S.A. 72- 7114*
- *Persons licensed by the secretary of health and environment to provide childcare services or the employees of persons so licensed at the place where the child care services are being provided to the child*
- *Firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, law enforcement officers, juvenile intake and assessment workers, court services officers, community corrections officers, case managers appointed under K.S.A. 23-3508, and amendments thereto, and mediators appointed under K.S.A. 23-3502*
- *Any person employed by or who works as a volunteer for any organization, whether for profit or not-for-profit, that provides social services to pregnant teenagers, including, but not limited to, counseling, adoption services and pregnancy education and maintenance*

Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect are made to the Kansas Protection Report Center (KPRC) via the toll-free number 1-800-922-5330, fax, mail, or web intake. The KPRC receives reports of alleged abuse, neglect, or family in need of assessment 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

DCF maintains general information for mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect through our public web site [Mandated Reporter Portal - Prevention and Protection Services](#) . Mandated reporters may report their concern using methods of telephone, fax or using a web-based online reporting system which is through a portal available 24/7 at [Mandated Reporter Online Report - Prevention and Protection Services](#). The general information webpage includes information and the form to report [unexcused school absences](#) if the designated educational/ school contact needs to attach that form to their on line report.

In SFY 2024, there were 70,940 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect or a family in need of services received by DCF. Of the 70,940 reports received, report source of those who are mandated to report accounted for 68% of the reports. (n= 48,253). Report source considered a mandated reporter pursuant to K.S.A. 38-3223 include Day Care Provider, Education, Law Enforcement/Legal, Medical and Social Services [Figure 2 and Table 3.] Education reporters comprise 42% of all reports received from mandated reporters.

Of those 70,940 reports received in SFY 2024, 53,899 were received through the online web reporting system. There may be seasonal differences, but generally, about 65% of reports are through online reporting, 30% through calls to the toll-free line and 5% via facsimile [Figure 1.]

Figure 1: Method of Reporting to KPRC

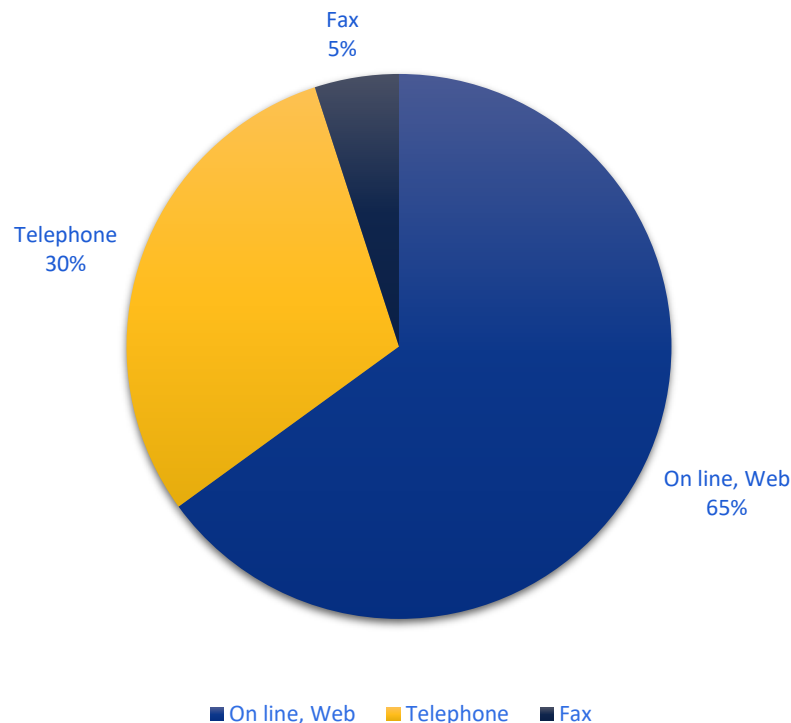
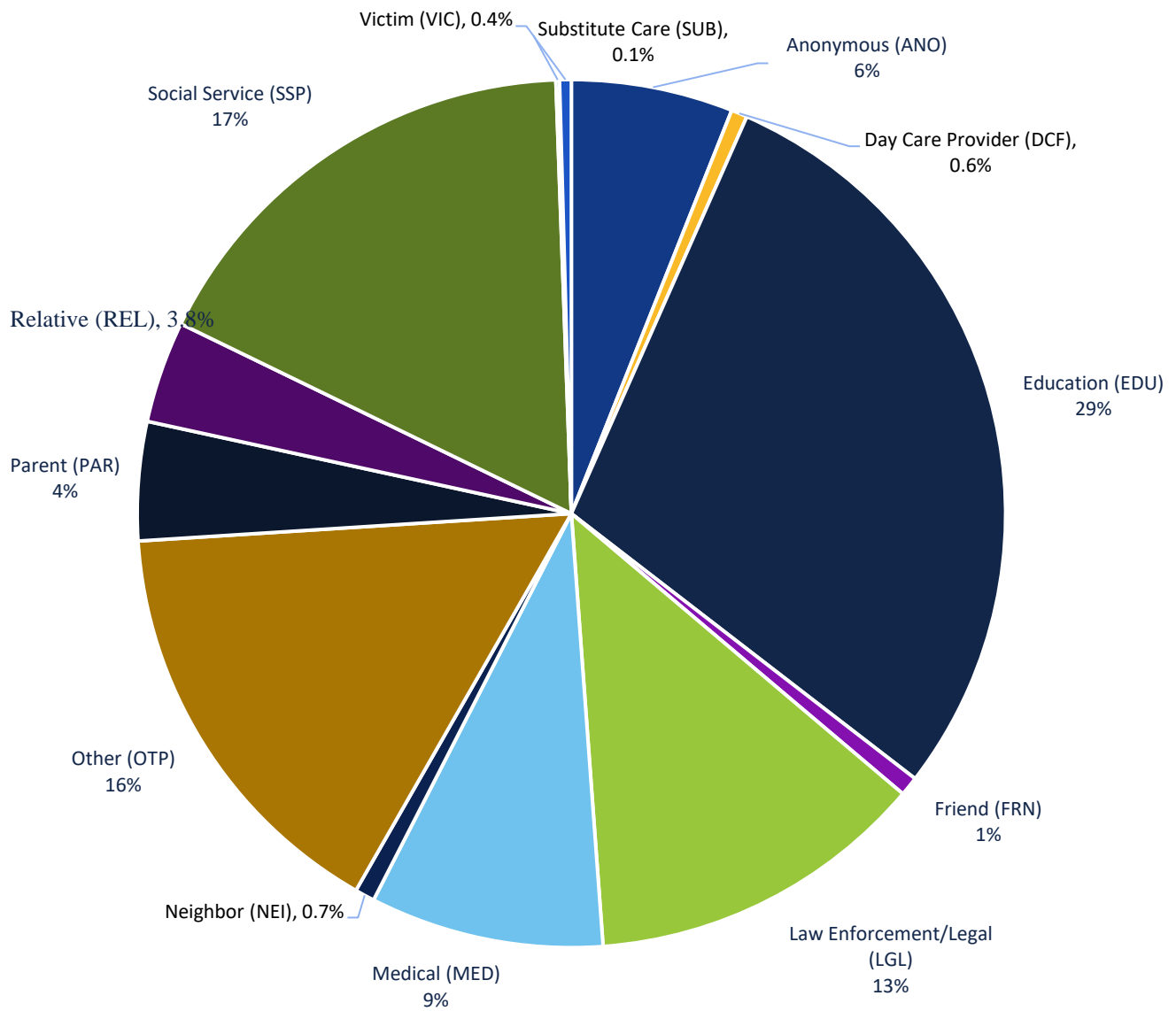


Figure 2: SFY 2024 Reports Received by Reporter Source



For those who are not a mandated reporter, reporting as an anonymous report source is accepted. However, many (non-mandated) reporters do leave their contact information and do not report anonymously. Of the 70,940 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect, 6% (n=4,273) were from an anonymous reporter (Table 1.) Reports assigned for further investigation and assessment was 35,253 and of those assigned 6.73% (n=2,372) were from an anonymous reporter (Table 2.)

| Table 1: Reports Received | SFY 2019 | SFY 2020 | SFY 2021 | SFY 2022 | SFY 2023 | SFY 2024 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| # of Anonymous reports received | 4,950 | 4,960 | 4,543 | 4,138 | 4,358 | 4,273 |
| Total reports received | 73,407 | 66,525 | 67,387 | 70,057 | 72,587 | 70,940 |
| % of reports received from Anonymous reporter | 6.74% | 7.46% | 6.74% | 5.91% | 6.00% | 6.02% |

| Table 2: Reports Assigned | SFY 2019 | SFY 2020 | SFY 2021 | SFY 2022 | SFY 2023 | SFY 2024 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| # of Anonymous reports assigned | 3,051 | 3,063 | 2,842 | 2,518 | 2,605 | 2,372 |
| Total reports assigned | 45,801 | 37,940 | 38,263 | 38,870 | 37,776 | 35,253 |
| % of reports assigned from Anonymous reporter | 6.66% | 8.07% | 7.43% | 6.48% | 6.90% | 6.73% |

| Table 3: Report Source, Ranked | Reports Received | Reporter as % |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Education | 20,453 | 28.8% |
| Social Service | 12,222 | 17.2% |
| Other | 11,158 | 15.7% |
| Law Enforcement/Legal | 8,984 | 12.7% |
| Medical | 6,168 | 8.7% |
| Anonymous | 4,273 | 6.0% |
| Parent | 3,135 | 4.4% |
| Relative | 2,688 | 3.8% |
| Neighbor | 522 | 0.7% |
| Friend | 507 | 0.7% |
| Day Care Provider | 426 | 0.6% |
| Victim | 308 | 0.4% |
| Substitute Care | 96 | 0.1% |
| Grand Total | 70,940 | 100% |

| Report Source, Ranked | Reports Assigned | Reporter as % |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Education | 10,917 | 31.0% |
| Social Service | 6,103 | 17.3% |
| Other | 5,224 | 14.8% |
| Law Enforcement/Legal | 3,475 | 9.9% |
| Medical | 3,018 | 8.6% |
| Anonymous | 2,372 | 6.7% |
| Parent | 1,631 | 4.6% |
| Relative | 1,471 | 4.2% |
| Friend | 321 | 0.9% |
| Neighbor | 292 | 0.8% |
| Day Care Provider | 221 | 0.6% |
| Victim | 166 | 0.5% |
| Substitute Care | 42 | 0.1% |
| Grand Total | 35,253 | 100% |

The Department for Children and Families has a grant with Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) to provide mandated reporter training across the state that is funded in part with federal adoption incentive funds. KCSL is the Prevent Child Abuse America chapter in Kansas and continues to stay current on trends and research nationwide. KCSL also provides a parent support line through 1-800-Children. DCF encourages community partners to use the 1-800-children line resource for supporting parents. Information on the helpline phone number is included in a (return) text from DCF for anyone who makes a call about concern for child abuse or neglect.

In SFY 2024, KCSL provided 98 trainings to mandated reporters across Kansas with over 3,000 attendees. Of the 98 trainings, 54 of those were Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition, Reporting and Supporting, with the remaining 44 Perinatal Substance Use: Recognition, Reporting and Supporting, and A Shift in Perspective: A Preventative Approach in Supporting Families and Reducing Child Abuse and Neglect.

The training addresses areas of risk and protective factors, definitions and common indicators of child abuse including shaken baby syndrome, and considerations for distinguishing poverty from neglect. Participants will also learn what to do in the event of a disclosure, how to make a report, what happens after a report is made, and thinking through roles as not just a mandated reporter but also as a supporter of families and how individual or organization can support a family before a situation rises to the level of needing a hotline report. KCSL maintains information on and registration for the training opportunities on their website at [Training - Kansas Children's Service League, Inc.](#)

KCSL offers trainings virtually several times a month at no charge. Trainings may also be presented upon request to a specific agency in person or presented virtually with no cost. DCF staff may co-present with KCSL upon request. Funding for this partnership is through Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA).

In February 2024 DCF, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and KCSL came together to learn from each other around reporting child abuse and neglect through an event called the Educator Reflection. One of the outcomes is to explore ways to have a training specific for those within the education system. Collaboration around supporting mandated reporters also occurs through the Thriving Families, Safer Children initiative and regular connection meetings with KSDE and KDHE.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide DCF information on mandated reporting