

HOUSE BILL NO. 305

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/4/20

Referred: Health and Social Services, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the persons required to report child abuse or neglect or a threat of
2 harm to a child; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 22.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 22.35.040. Reporting of imminent threat to child.** A judge of the
6 superior court or district court shall immediately report to the nearest office of a law
7 enforcement agency of the state a threat of imminent harm to a child if the judge has
8 reasonable cause to suspect that there is a threat that imminent harm will occur to a
9 child between the time the judge issues a protective order under AS 18.65.850 -
10 18.65.870 or AS 18.66.100 - 18.66.180 and the time the protective order is served.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.17.020(a), as amended by sec. 131, ch. 4, FSSLA 2019, is amended to read:

12 (a) The following persons who, in the performance of the duties associated
13 with a position listed in this subsection [THEIR OCCUPATIONAL DUTIES,
14 THEIR APPOINTED DUTIES UNDER (8) OF THIS SUBSECTION, OR THEIR

VOLUNTEER DUTIES UNDER (9) OF THIS SUBSECTION], have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of child abuse or neglect shall immediately report the harm to the nearest office of the department and, if the harm appears to be a result of a suspected sex offense, shall immediately report the harm to the nearest law enforcement agency:

- (1) practitioners of the healing arts;
- (2) school teachers and school administrative staff members, including athletic coaches, of public and private schools;
- (3) peace officers and officers of the Department of Corrections;
- (4) administrative officers of institutions;
- (5) child care providers;
- (6) paid employees of domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and crisis intervention and prevention programs as defined in AS 18.66.990;
- (7) paid employees of an organization that provides counseling or treatment to individuals seeking to control their use of drugs or alcohol;
- (8) members of a child fatality review team established under AS 12.65.015(e) or 12.65.120 or the multidisciplinary child protection team created under AS 47.14.300;
- (9) volunteers who interact with children in a public or private school for more than four hours a week;
- (10) priests, ministers, and other individuals who are ordained, anointed, or appointed to perform religious duties;**
- (11) individuals who work at public and private animal shelters, whether as paid employees or volunteers;**
- (12) individuals who are employees of or volunteers with a fire department of a municipality, including firefighters and emergency medical technicians;**
- (13) individuals appointed by a court to act as guardians ad litem for children.**

* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2020.