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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Signs Amendment Expanding Mandated Reporter Laws

Free online course at ProSolutions Training provides training for mandated reporters

Children in Georgia will be better protected from child abuse in the future as a new expanded mandated reporter law specifies a wider range of people being required to report suspected child abuse. The mandated reporter law for Georgia expanded to include more individuals who are law-bound to report suspected abuse, as of July 1, 2012. The new amendment designates several categories of individuals as mandated reporters, who "having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall report or cause reports of that abuse to be made." All child service organization personnel (both employees and volunteers) are now mandated reporters.

The Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF) sponsors a free, online training course, provided through ProSolutions Training, that details the law and its recent changes, discusses warning signs that can indicate if a child is being abused or neglected, and explains your role in reporting suspected child abuse. The free online course can be accessed through this link: <https://www.gocftrainingonline.com/> -- or at Partners/Hosted Courses on the ProSolutions Training website, www.prosolutionstraining.com

Specifically, the expanded definition of "child service organization personnel" means people who are employed or volunteering at a business or organization, whether public, private, for profit, not for profit, or voluntary, that provides care, treatment, education, training, supervision, coaching, counseling, recreational programs, or shelter to children." Reproductive health care facility or pregnancy resource center personnel and volunteers were specifically added as mandated reporters. New language also explains that members of the clergy are required to report child abuse unless the information is shared in the "context of confession or other similar communications required to be kept confidential under church doctrine or practice."

The Mandated Reporters course is sponsored by the Governor's Office for Children and Families.



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