

N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10



**Effective: [See Text Amendments]**

New Jersey Statutes Annotated [Currentness](#)

Title 9. Children--Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts ([Refs & Annos](#))

Subtitle 3. Protective Welfare Laws ([Refs & Annos](#))

Chapter 6. Abandonment, Abuse, Cruelty and Neglect ([Refs & Annos](#))

[Article 1.](#) General Provisions

B. Abused Child--Reports and Protective Custody ([Refs & Annos](#))

**→9:6-8.10. Reports of child abuse**

Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to **child abuse** or acts of **child abuse** shall **report** the same immediately to the Division of Youth and Family Services by telephone or otherwise. Such **reports**, where possible, shall contain the names and addresses of the child and his parent, guardian, or other person having custody and control of the child and, if known, the child's age, the nature and possible extent of the **child's** injuries, **abuse** or maltreatment, including any evidence of previous injuries, abuse or maltreatment, and any other information that the person believes may be helpful with respect to the **child abuse** and the identity of the perpetrator.

CREDIT(S)

L.1971, c. 437, § 3, eff. Feb. 10, 1972. Amended by L.1987, c. 341, § 4, eff. Dec. 24, 1987.

CROSS REFERENCES

Detection and notification of abused children by schools, see [§ 18A:36-24](#) et seq.

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE REFERENCES

Actions taken by hospital staff when infant brought to the hospital by police pursuant to the Act, see [N.J.A.C. 10:133K-1.8](#).

Community Mental Health Services Act, see [N.J.A.C. 10:37-1.1](#) et seq.

Programs to support student development, see [N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1](#) et seq.

Standards for private licensed facilities for persons with developmental disabilities, see [N.J.A.C. 10:47-1.1](#) et seq.

LAW REVIEW AND JOURNAL COMMENTARIES

Access to medical records. Robert J. Conroy, Mark D. Brylski and Kathy Opperman, 118 N.J.Law. 32 (Feb. 1987).

Model mediator confidentiality rule: A commentary. Jonathan M. Hyman, 12 Seton Hall Legis.J. 17 (1988).

LIBRARY REFERENCES

2002 Main Volume

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Infants  13.5.  
Westlaw Topic No. 211.

## RESEARCH REFERENCES

2005 Electronic Update

ALR Library

[73 ALR 4th 782](#), Validity, Construction, and Application of State Statute Requiring Doctor or Other Person to **Report Child Abuse**.


Encyclopedias


[Am. Jur. 2d Witnesses § 470](#), Generally; Physician-Patient Communications.


## NOTES OF DECISIONS

**In general** [1](#)  
**Persons within section** [2](#)  
**Sufficiency of evidence** [3](#)


### [1](#). In general

Communications and statements made by court-appointed psychologist to State Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), regarding psychologist's belief that child involved in custody proceedings had been sexually abused by father, could not be source of liability for psychologist; statements were made pursuant to statute requiring the **reporting** of suspected **abuse** of **children**, and there was no evidence that psychologist did anything with respect to **reporting** to DYFS beyond that which she justifiably believed was required of her. [P.T. v. Richard Hall Community Mental Health Care Center, 364 N.J.Super. 561, 837 A.2d 436 \(L.2002\)](#), affirmed [364 N.J.Super. 460, 837 A.2d 377](#), certification denied [180 N.J. 150, 849 A.2d 183](#). Health  768


General provisions of psychologist-patient privilege must yield to statute requiring persons to **report** evidence of **child abuse** to Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS); statute requires only **report** to DYFS in order to protect the child in danger, and otherwise, privilege remains intact. [State v. Snell, 314 N.J.Super. 331, 714 A.2d 977 \(A.D.1998\)](#). Witnesses  214.5

Psychiatrist's **report** to Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) of the evidence of **child abuse** that defendant had disclosed to him during therapy was proper; however, psychiatrist could not be compelled by the state to testify to the content of privileged communications at defendant's criminal trial. [State v. Snell, 314 N.J.Super. 331, 714 A.2d 977 \(A.D.1998\)](#). Witnesses  211(4)

### [2](#). Persons within section

Duty to make **reports** of suspected **child abuse** is not limited to professional persons, friends or neighbors, who are persons ordinarily more apt to observe and detect evidence of **child abuse**, but is required of every citizen. [State v. Hill, 232 N.J.Super. 353, 556 A.2d 1325 \(L.1989\)](#). Infants  13

### [3](#). Sufficiency of evidence

The failure of full-time school nurse and two teachers to report to the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) incidents of former principal rocking his body back and forth into children in a sexually-suggestive, inappropriate way, standing alone, was evidence of negligence, vicariously imputable to the county board of education. [Frugis v. Bracigliano, 177 N.J. 250, 827 A.2d 1040 \(2003\)](#). Schools  89.2

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