

The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago Child Safety Reporting Requirements

Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act

The Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (“ANCRA”), 325 ILCS 5/4, requires that certain professionals enumerated by ANCRA immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (“DCFS”) if they have reasonable cause to believe a child known to them in their professional or official capacity may be an abused or neglected child. Child abuse is the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18. The mistreatment can either result in injury or put the child at serious risk of injury. Child abuse can be physical, sexual, or mental. Neglect is the failure of a parent or caretaker to meet “minimal parenting” standards for providing adequate supervision, food, clothing, medical care, shelter, or other basic needs.

ANCRA applies to all “school personnel” and “personnel of institutions of higher education” and thus, to all personnel of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago (“Moody”). Further, although students are not specifically included in the list of mandatory reporters, ANCRA mandatory reporters do include various types of child care workers, such as those working in summer camps, recreational and athletic programs, child day care centers, counseling, youth ministry, mentoring and tutoring. Consequently, Moody students participating in such activities would have ANCRA mandatory reporting responsibilities. Additionally, other persons not subject to ANCRA *may* report reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect.

ANCRA requires mandated reporters and permits non-mandated reporters to *immediately* report suspected child abuse or neglect either by:

- Calling the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline (800-252-2873); or
- Notifying DCFS in person or by telephone through the nearest DCFS office.

Mandated reporters shall and non-mandated reporters may confirm their telephone report in writing on a form prescribed by DCFS within 48 hours after filing the oral report. Reporting forms are available at: https://www.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Pages/com_communications_forms.aspx (see CANTS 5).

ANCRA allows individuals reporting suspected child abuse or neglect to notify the person in charge of the institution, school, facility, church or agency that such a report has been made. Moody personnel and students are encouraged to notify the aforementioned person in charge, when appropriate, if they report suspected child abuse or neglect to DCFS, and Moody students are further encouraged to notify their church or agency site supervisor, when appropriate, and the Moody PCM Department. Notably, persons receiving notice of a report to DCFS may not interfere with the state reporting process.

Failure to Report Sexual Abuse of a Child

The Illinois Criminal Code makes failure to report sexual abuse of a child a Class A misdemeanor. If *Moody personnel or Moody students personally observe sexual abuse of a child, they must notify law enforcement and DCFS as required by ANCRA*. Further, PCM students are encouraged to notify their church or agency site supervisor, when appropriate, and the PCM Department.