

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 40, *approved March 18, 2019*  
Senate, No. 641 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning child abuse and amending P.L.1971, c.437.

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3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
4 of New Jersey:

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6 1. Section 3 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.10) is amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 3. **[Any]** <sup>1</sup>[a. Except as provided in subsection b. of this section  
9 any] Any<sup>1</sup> person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has  
10 been subjected to child abuse <sup>1</sup>, including sexual abuse,<sup>1</sup> or acts of  
11 child abuse shall report the same immediately to the Division of Child  
12 Protection and Permanency by telephone or otherwise. **[Such**  
13 **reports,]**

14 <sup>1</sup>**[b. Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child**  
15 **has been subjected to an act of sexual abuse as defined in section 1 of**  
16 **P.L.1992, c.109 (C.2A:61B-1) or any sexual offense as defined in**  
17 **chapter 14 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes shall immediately**  
18 **report the act or offense to law enforcement officials.**

19 c. Reports made pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this section,]  
20 Such reports,<sup>1</sup> where possible, shall contain the names and addresses  
21 of the child and his parent, guardian, or other person having custody  
22 and control of the child and, if known, the child's age, the nature and  
23 possible extent of the child's injuries, abuse or maltreatment, including  
24 any evidence of previous injuries, abuse or maltreatment, and any  
25 other information that the person believes may be helpful with respect  
26 to the child abuse and the identity of the perpetrator.

27 (cf: P.L.2012, c.16, s.21)

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29 2. Section 7 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.14) is amended to read as  
30 follows:

31 7. **[Any]** a. Except as provided in subsection b. of this section  
32 any person knowingly violating the provisions of this act including the  
33 failure to report an act of child abuse having reasonable cause to  
34 believe that an act of child abuse has been committed, is a disorderly  
35 person.

36 b. Any person who knowingly fails to report an act of sexual  
37 abuse <sup>1</sup>[or any sexual offense pursuant to subsection b. of section 3 of  
38 P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.10)]<sup>1</sup> against a child and who has reasonable  
39 cause to believe that an act of sexual abuse <sup>1</sup>[or the sexual offense]<sup>1</sup>  
40 has been committed is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

41 (cf: P.L.1971, c.437, s.7)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted June 21, 2018.

**S641 [1R]**

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1       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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6       Upgrades penalty for failing to report act of sexual abuse against  
7 child.