

Senate Bill 149

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CHAPTER 230, LAWS OF 1967

AN ACT to amend 48.981 (1) and (2) of the statutes, relating to reports on abused or injured children.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

48.981 (1) and (2) of the statutes are amended to read:

48.981 (1) A physician or surgeon being of the opinion as specified in s. 885.21 (1) (f), or a nurse, *hospital administrator, dentist, social worker or school administrator* having reasonable cause to believe that a child brought to him or coming before him has had physical injury or other abuse inflicted upon him by another, other than by accidental means, shall orally report the same and the facts and circumstances forming the opinion. The report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise, and followed by a report in writing to a county child welfare agency specified in s. 48.56 (1) ~~or~~, the sheriff of the county *or the city police department*. The recipient of the report shall notify the other ~~receiver~~ *receivers* of reports within 48 hours. When the recipient of the report is the sheriff of the county *or city police department*, he shall make an investigation consistent with the facts and circumstances described in the report and take whatever emergency action is necessary for the protection of the child. If the sheriff *or city police department* determines that legal action is necessary he shall refer the case to the district attorney for criminal prosecution. The county child welfare agency specified in s. 48.56 (1) shall investigate each report and act in accordance with its powers and duties as set forth in s. 48.57.

(2) Anyone, in good faith, participating in the making of a report pursuant to this section or participating in a judicial proceeding resulting therefrom shall in so doing be immune from any ~~criminal~~ *liability, civil or criminal*, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

Approved December 6, 1967.