

Mandated Reporting Policy for Therapy Private Practice

Jackson Ilyas Therapy Solutions Private Practice

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

Last Review Date: January 1, 2025

1. Introduction

At **Jackson Ilyas Therapy Solutions Private Practice**, the safety and well-being of our clients are of the utmost importance. As mandated reporters under state law, we are required to report certain situations to protect vulnerable individuals, particularly minors and dependent adults, from harm. This **Mandated Reporting Policy** outlines the therapist's legal and ethical responsibilities regarding the reporting of suspected abuse or neglect.

2. Mandated Reporter Status

As a licensed professional, **Dr. Felisha Jackson Ilyas** is a **mandated reporter** under provisional state laws in which she practices. This means that if we have reasonable suspicion of child abuse, elder abuse, or abuse of a dependent adult, we are legally obligated to report it to the appropriate authorities. This duty to report overrides confidentiality in these specific situations.

Mandated reporters include, but are not limited to:

- **Licensed Therapists, Counselors, and Social Workers**
 - **Healthcare Providers:** Doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel
 - **Teachers and Educators**
 - **Law Enforcement Officers**
 - **Childcare Providers and Caregivers**
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3. Types of Abuse and Neglect to Report

Therapists are legally required to report suspected abuse or neglect in the following circumstances:

3.1 Child Abuse or Neglect (Under 18 Years Old)

Therapists must report any suspicion of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a minor. This includes:

- **Physical Abuse:** Any non-accidental injury to a child (e.g., bruising, burns, fractures).

- **Sexual Abuse:** Any sexual contact or exploitation, including inappropriate touching, molestation, or exploitation for commercial purposes.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Verbal or psychological harm that impairs a child's emotional development.
- **Neglect:** Failure to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, or supervision, placing the child at risk of harm.
- **Exploitation:** Using a child for illegal or immoral purposes, including sexual exploitation.

3.2 Elder Abuse (Age 65 or Older)

Therapists must report any suspicion of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of individuals aged 65 and older, including:

- **Physical Abuse:** Any injury or harm inflicted upon an elder.
- **Neglect:** Failure to provide proper care, leading to physical harm or emotional distress.
- **Financial Abuse:** Unauthorized use or theft of an elder's funds or property.
- **Psychological Abuse:** Emotional manipulation or verbal abuse.

3.3 Dependent Adult Abuse (Age 18-64 with Physical or Mental Disabilities)

Dependent adults are those who are unable to care for themselves due to physical or mental disabilities. Mandated reporting applies to suspected:

- **Physical Abuse:** Any injury caused to a dependent adult.
- **Neglect:** Failure to provide for the dependent adult's basic needs.
- **Financial Exploitation:** Improper use of a dependent adult's finances.
- **Psychological Abuse:** Emotional or verbal abuse that harms the dependent adult's well-being.

3.4 Other Situations

Mandated reporting may also apply to certain situations where a client reveals that they are at risk of harm or is currently being harmed, even if the situation does not fall within the above categories.

4. Procedures for Reporting

4.1 Immediate Reporting Requirement

Once a therapist becomes aware of or has reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect, the law requires them to report the suspected incident **immediately**, within **24 hours**.

The therapist will:

- **Contact the appropriate authority:** Reports should be made to the **local child protective services (CPS), adult protective services (APS), or law enforcement** depending on the type of abuse (child, elder, or dependent adult abuse).
- **Complete a report form:** For child abuse, this includes a **Form SS 8572** (Suspected Child Abuse Report), which can be submitted to the local CPS or law enforcement.

4.2 Reporting Method

Reports can be made via:

- **Phone:** Contact the appropriate agency or law enforcement, ensuring a timely report is made.
- **Online:** In some cases, reports can be submitted electronically via specific portals, such as CPS websites.
- **Fax or Mail:** Certain agencies may accept forms via fax or mail, but immediate reporting through phone or online methods is recommended.

4.3 Documentation of Report

- The therapist will document the details of the report, including:
 - Date and time of the report
 - Agency or individual contacted
 - A summary of the incident or suspicion of abuse
 - Any follow-up steps taken, if applicable.

This documentation will be kept in the client's confidential record, separate from the therapeutic notes.

4.4 Confidentiality and Reporting

In cases where mandated reporting is required, confidentiality rules are overridden by the legal duty to report. However, the therapist will disclose only the information necessary to fulfill the legal requirements of the report.

5. Exceptions to Reporting

While therapists are generally required to report suspected abuse or neglect, there are a few exceptions to this mandate:

- **Privilege in Therapy:** In rare cases where therapy or counselor-client privilege applies, therapists may not be required to report information revealed within confidential therapy sessions. However, **state law** requires that mandated reporters report abuse regardless of the confidentiality provisions that apply to therapy or other confidential relationships.

- **Therapeutic Context:** If a client discloses information about abuse in a therapeutic context, this may not be enough to create reasonable suspicion if the details are vague or unsubstantiated.
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6. Reporting to Law Enforcement

If a client presents an imminent risk of harm to themselves or others (e.g., suicidal ideation, homicide threats), the therapist is required to:

- Report to **law enforcement** or **emergency services** to ensure immediate intervention.
 - **Warning:** If a client has made a direct threat toward another person, such as making threats of violence, the therapist may need to break confidentiality to warn the potential victim and notify authorities.
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7. Training and Compliance

- **Ongoing Training:** All staff members involved in client care, including administrative staff, will be trained on the mandated reporting requirements to ensure compliance with state laws and ethical obligations.
 - **Regular Review:** This **Mandated Reporting Policy** will be reviewed and updated regularly to remain compliant with any changes in state or federal laws regarding reporting responsibilities.
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8. Client Awareness

At the start of therapy, clients will be informed of the therapist's legal duty to report abuse, neglect, or harm. This will be addressed during the informed consent process, and clients will be encouraged to ask any questions about this policy.

9. Acknowledgment of Mandated Reporting Policy

By signing below, the client acknowledges that they have read, understood, and agree to the **Mandated Reporting Policy** of **Jackson Ilyas Therapy Solutions Private Practice**. The client understands that the therapist is legally obligated to report any suspected abuse or neglect and that this duty may override confidentiality requirements.

Client's Name: _____

Client's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Therapist's Name: _____

Therapist's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Conclusion

The **Mandated Reporting Policy** at **Jackson Ilyas Therapy Solutions Private Practice** ensures compliance with state and federal laws, prioritizing the safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals. By maintaining clear and transparent practices, the therapist demonstrates commitment to ethical and legal standards in protecting those who may be at risk of harm.