

TEEN ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN CALIFORNIA

The mandatory reporting laws do not require the reporting of all sexual activity in minors, which is illegal by definition, but only when certain situations and age relationships between the partners exist.

AN ABUSE REPORT IS **REQUIRED** UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

For all minors	A report is required if there is:
Under 18 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical abuse (including abuse by a dating partner). • Rape, sexual assault, or sexual abuse of any kind.

For the age categories	The following situations also require a report:
Under 16 (14 or 15 years old)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensual sexual intercourse with a partner 21 years or older (statutory rape). • Consensual sexual activity of any kind with a partner 10 or more years older.
Under 14 (13 years or less)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensual sexual intercourse with a partner 14 years or older (statutory rape). • Consensual sexual activity of any kind with a partner 14 years or older.

NO REPORT REQUIRED:*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensual sexual activity between minors under 14 years who are “of like age.” • Consensual sexual activity between minors ages 14 to 20. • Consensual sexual activity between a minor 16 and older and the other partner is an adult of any age. |
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* No report is required unless additional facts (beyond the sexual activity itself) give rise to a reasonable suspicion of abuse.

NOTE:

- As outlined in the California’s Child Abuse Reporting Statute, reports can be made *either* to Children’s Protective Services *or* law enforcement agencies; they are required to cross-report.
- There is no law that requires health providers or other professionals who work with adolescents to ask the age of a patient’s sexual partner(s).

*Adapted from California District Attorneys Association and California Department of Health Services, Maternal-Child Health Branch, Domestic Violence Section. SafeNetwork: <http://www.safenetwork.net/teens/chart.html>
For more information, see California Penal Code §§ 261.5, 286, 288, 289. <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>*

