Reporting duties, on one page

What to report, to whom and how fast, when you may disclose to prevent harm, and what stays confidential.

Study aid, not legal advice. Last verified against the official sources linked below on 11 November 2026.

1 Child protection (CYFSA s. 125)

- **Reasonable grounds to suspect**, for a child under 16, any situation in s. 125 (1) (harm, abuse, neglect, or their risk): report **immediately** to a children's aid society.
- Report the suspicion and its basis; **do not investigate first**.
- **Yours alone, and ongoing**: nobody reports for you; each new ground, a new report (s. 125 (2), (3)).
- **16 or 17**: no duty; you may report on the grounds in paras. 1 to 11 (s. 125 (4)).
- **It overrides confidentiality and PHIPA** (s. 125 (10), (12)). When and how to tell the client is your judgment (Standard 1.3).

2 College reports (Code; O. Reg. 317/12)

- An **unsafe practice incident** by another RP, on reasonable grounds: report to CRPO promptly, naming no client without consent (O. Reg. 317/12, s. 1, paras. 39, 40).
- **You run a facility**: report a member there you have reasonable grounds to believe incompetent, incapacitated or to have sexually abused a patient: in writing, 30 days, forthwith if urgent (Code ss. 85.2, 85.3).
- **You end a member's employment** or partnership for misconduct, incompetence or incapacity: report to their Registrar, in writing, within 30 days (s. 85.5).
- **Yourself**, in writing, as soon as reasonably practicable: a finding of guilt, a charge and bail conditions, a negligence finding, another regulator's finding; also tell CRPO of any other regulator's membership (ss. 85.6.1 to 85.6.4).

3 Sexual abuse of a patient (Code ss. 85.1, 85.3)

- **Reasonable grounds to believe**, gained in your practice, that a member of any Ontario health college, or a registrant of the Health and Supportive Care Providers Oversight Authority, sexually abused a patient.
- In writing to that member's college Registrar (or the Authority) **within 30 days**, or **forthwith** if more abuse is likely.
- The client is named **only with their written consent**; otherwise, report without the name.
- Grounds from your client: use your best efforts to tell them of the duty **before you file**.

4 Risk of serious harm (PHIPA s. 40 (1))

- **You may disclose** if you believe on reasonable grounds it is necessary to eliminate or reduce a significant risk of serious bodily harm. No statute requires it, but CRPO says an imminent risk may bring **a duty to warn**: get legal advice.
- **Smith v. Jones**: weigh clarity (an identifiable person or group), seriousness (death or serious bodily harm, psychological included, para. 83) and imminence.
- **Assess first**, consult early, tell the client where safe, then **disclose only what the risk needs** to whoever can reduce it. Document why.

5 Care homes (FLTCA s. 28; RHA s. 75)

- **Anyone** with reasonable grounds to suspect improper care, abuse, neglect or unlawful conduct that harms or risks harm to a resident, or misuse of their money, reports **immediately**.
- **Long-term care home**: the Director, Ministry of Long-Term Care. **Retirement home**: the Registrar, Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority.

6 Courts, and what stays confidential

- A summons or subpoena: attend with what it names. It is **not authority to hand the file to a party**: legal advice, tell the client, let the court rule.
- **A court order**: comply, to the extent of its terms.
- A past crime with no ongoing risk, a capable adult abused by a partner, a relative's question: **confidential without consent**, absent another duty or permission.

Suspect, for children. Believe, for colleagues. Permitted means judgment: disclose the minimum.

Official sources: CRPO Standard 1.3: Mandatory Reporting and CYFSA, 2017 and RHPA, 1991 (Code, Schedule 2) and O. Reg. 317/12 and PHIPA, 2004 and FLTCA, 2021 and RHA, 2010. Condensed from Mandatory Reporting and the Limits of Confidentiality and Professional Conduct. Independent study aid, not legal advice.