WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §9-6-9

§9-6-9. Mandatory reporting of incidences of abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or emergency situation.

(a) If any medical, dental, or mental health professional, Christian Science practitioner, religious healer, social service worker, law-enforcement officer, humane officer, any employee of any nursing home or other residential facility, has reasonable cause to believe that a vulnerable adult or facility resident is or has been neglected, abused, financially exploited or placed in an emergency situation, or if such person observes a vulnerable adult or facility resident being subjected to conditions that are likely to result in abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or an emergency situation, the person shall immediately report the circumstances pursuant to the provisions of §9-6-11 of this code: *Provided*, That nothing in this article is intended to prevent individuals from reporting on their own behalf.

(b) In addition to those persons and officials specifically required to report situations involving suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult or facility resident, or the existence of an emergency situation, any other person may make such a report.

(c) The Department of Human Services shall develop and implement a procedure to notify any person mandated to report suspected abuse and neglect of a vulnerable adult or facility resident of whether an investigation into the reported suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation has been initiated and when the investigation is completed.

(d) Financial institutions and their employees, as defined by §31A-2A-1 of this code and as permitted by §31A-2A-4(13) of this code, others engaged in financially related activities, as defined by §31A-8C-1 of this code, caregivers, relatives, and other concerned persons are permitted to report suspected cases of financial exploitation to state or federal law-enforcement authorities, the county prosecuting attorney, and to the Adult Protective Services Division, or Medicaid Fraud Division, as appropriate. Public officers and employees are required to report suspected cases of financial exploitation to the appropriate entities as stated above. The requisite agencies shall investigate or cause the investigation of the allegations.

WV Legislature