

1 AN ACT relating to animal control officers.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 258.095 TO 258.500 IS CREATED
4 TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) The board shall develop and maintain a list of approved comprehensive evidence-*
6 *informed trainings on child abuse and neglect recognition and reporting that*
7 *encompass child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect.*

8 *(2) The trainings may be provided in person or by utilizing currently available*
9 *technology and shall cover, at a minimum, the following topics:*

10 *(a) Recognizing child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect;*

11 *(b) Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Kentucky as required by*
12 *Section 2 of this Act and the appropriate documentation;*

13 *(c) Responding to the child; and*

14 *(d) Understanding the response of child protective services.*

15 *(3) The trainings shall include a questionnaire or other basic assessment tool upon*
16 *completion to document basic knowledge of training components.*

17 *(4) Each city, county, urban-county government, charter county government,*
18 *consolidated local government, or unified local government that employs,*
19 *appoints, or contracts with an animal control officer shall adopt one (1) or more*
20 *trainings from the list approved by the board to be implemented.*

21 *(5) (a) All current animal control officers shall complete the implemented training*
22 *or trainings by January 31, 2025, and then every two (2) years thereafter.*

23 *(b) Animal control officers employed, appointed, or contracted with after*
24 *January 31, 2025, shall complete the implemented training or trainings*
25 *within ninety (90) days of being employed, appointed, or contracted with*
26 *and then every two (2) years thereafter.*

27 ➔Section 2. KRS 620.030 is amended to read as follows:

1 (1) Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent,
2 neglected, or abused shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made to
3 a local law enforcement agency or to the Department of Kentucky State Police, the
4 cabinet or its designated representative, the Commonwealth's attorney, or the
5 county attorney by telephone or otherwise. If the cabinet receives a report of abuse
6 or neglect allegedly committed by a person other than a parent, guardian, fictive
7 kin, person in a position of authority, person in a position of special trust, or person
8 exercising custodial control or supervision, the cabinet shall refer the matter to the
9 Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney and the local law enforcement
10 agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police. Nothing in this section shall
11 relieve individuals of their obligations to report.

12 (2) (a) Any person, including but not limited to a physician, osteopathic physician,
13 nurse, teacher, school personnel, social worker, coroner, medical examiner,
14 child-caring personnel, resident, intern, chiropractor, dentist, optometrist,
15 emergency medical technician, paramedic, health professional, mental health
16 professional, peace officer, *animal control officer*, or any organization or
17 agency for any of the above, who knows or has reasonable cause to believe
18 that a child is dependent, neglected, or abused, regardless of whether the
19 person believed to have caused the dependency, neglect, or abuse is a parent,
20 guardian, fictive kin, person in a position of authority, person in a position of
21 special trust, person exercising custodial control or supervision, or another
22 person, or who has attended such child as a part of his or her professional
23 duties, shall:

- 24 1. Immediately make an oral report in accordance with subsection (1) of
25 this section;
- 26 2. Immediately notify the supervisor of the institution, school, facility,
27 agency, or designated agent of the person in charge; and

- 1 3. If requested, in addition to the report required in subsection (1) or (3) of
2 this section, file with the local law enforcement agency or the
3 Department of Kentucky State Police, the cabinet or its designated
4 representative, the Commonwealth's attorney, or county attorney within
5 forty-eight (48) hours of the original report a written report containing:
- 6 a. The names and addresses of the child and his or her parents or
7 other persons exercising custodial control or supervision;
 - 8 b. The child's age;
 - 9 c. The nature and extent of the child's alleged dependency, neglect,
10 or abuse, including any previous charges of dependency, neglect,
11 or abuse, to this child or his or her siblings;
 - 12 d. The name and address of the person allegedly responsible for the
13 abuse or neglect; and
 - 14 e. Any other information that the person making the report believes
15 may be helpful in the furtherance of the purpose of this section.
- 16 (b) Upon notification, the supervisor or the designated agent, if any, shall
17 facilitate the cooperation of the institution, school, facility, or agency with the
18 investigation of the report.
- 19 (c) Any person who knowingly causes intimidation, retaliation, or obstruction in
20 the investigation of the report shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.
- 21 (d) This section shall not require more than one (1) report from any institution,
22 school, facility, or agency.
- 23 (3) Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of
24 human trafficking as defined in KRS 529.010 shall immediately cause an oral or
25 written report to be made to a local law enforcement agency or the Department of
26 Kentucky State Police; or the cabinet or its designated representative; or the
27 Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney; by telephone or otherwise. This

1 subsection shall apply regardless of whether the person believed to have caused the
2 human trafficking of the child is a parent, guardian, fictive kin, person in a position
3 of authority, person in a position of special trust, or person exercising custodial
4 control or supervision.

- 5 (4) Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of
6 female genital mutilation as defined in KRS 508.125 shall immediately cause an
7 oral or written report to be made by telephone or otherwise to:
- 8 (a) A local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police;
 - 9 (b) The cabinet or its designated representative; or
 - 10 (c) The Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney.

11 This subsection shall apply regardless of whether the person believed to have
12 caused the female genital mutilation of the child is a parent, guardian, or person
13 exercising custodial control or supervision.

- 14 (5) Neither the husband-wife nor any professional-client/patient privilege, except the
15 attorney-client and clergy-penitent privilege, shall be a ground for refusing to report
16 under this section or for excluding evidence regarding a dependent, neglected, or
17 abused child or the cause thereof, in any judicial proceedings resulting from a report
18 pursuant to this section. This subsection shall also apply in any criminal proceeding
19 in District or Circuit Court regarding a dependent, neglected, or abused child.

- 20 (6) The cabinet upon request shall receive from any agency of the state or any other
21 agency, institution, or facility providing services to the child or his or her family,
22 such cooperation, assistance, and information as will enable the cabinet to fulfill its
23 responsibilities under KRS 620.030, 620.040, and 620.050.

- 24 (7) Nothing in this section shall limit the cabinet's investigatory authority under KRS
25 620.050 or any other obligation imposed by law.

- 26 (8) Any person who intentionally violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty
27 of a:

- 1 (a) Class B misdemeanor for the first offense;
- 2 (b) Class A misdemeanor for the second offense; and
- 3 (c) Class D felony for each subsequent offense.