

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 747

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the duty of certain professionals, including employees
3 of public or private institutions of higher education, to report
4 child abuse or neglect.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 261.101(b), Family Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (b) If a professional has cause to believe that a child has
9 been abused or neglected or may be abused or neglected, or that a
10 child is a victim of an offense under Section 21.11, Penal Code, and
11 the professional has cause to believe that the child has been abused
12 as defined by Section 261.001 or 261.401, the professional shall
13 make a report not later than the 24th [~~48th~~] hour after the hour the
14 professional first suspects that the child has been or may be abused
15 or neglected or is a victim of an offense under Section 21.11, Penal
16 Code. A professional may not delegate to or rely on another person
17 to make the report. In this subsection, "professional" means an
18 individual who:

19 (1) is licensed or certified by the state or who is an
20 employee of a facility licensed, certified, or operated by the
21 state and who, in the normal course of official duties or duties for
22 which a license or certification is required, has direct contact
23 with children. The term includes teachers, nurses, doctors,
24 day-care employees, employees of a clinic or health care facility

1 that provides reproductive services, juvenile probation officers,
2 and juvenile detention or correctional officers; or

3 (2) is an employee of an institution of higher
4 education or a private or independent institution of higher
5 education, as those terms are defined by Section 61.003, Education
6 Code.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.