

CURTIS THAXTER  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

---

One Canal Plaza, Suite 1000, P.O. Box 7320, Portland, ME 04112-7320  
TEL: 207-774-9000 • FAX 207-775-0612 • www.curtisthaxter.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: Maine Summer Camp (MSC) Members  
FROM: Jack Erler  
DATE: June 10, 2016  
RE: Status of Governmental Affairs Work by MYCA

---

**New laws:**

PL 2016 Chapter 407 **An Act To Require Training of Mandated Reporters under the Child Abuse Laws**. This bill has been passed into law and will become effective on July 29<sup>th</sup>. The law requires all mandated reporters (Camp administrator and counselor 18 years of age or older) of suspected child abuse or neglect to complete training approved by the department at least once every 4 years. Although most camps already train, it appears that additional training will be required.

Starting on July 29 Maine law will require camps to train all their mandated reporters. For now there are two ways to do this.

First, there is an online course that can be taken. There is no charge for this course. It takes about 20 or so minutes. At the end is a test which each student has two chances to pass. A score of 80% right answers is necessary to pass. Once the student has passed, her/his name will be in the DHHS database and she/he will get a printed certificate (if the computer is linked to a printer). This course is available now at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/cps/>. At the bottom of the webpage, click on Mandated Reporter Training.

Second, there are Mandated Report Trainers around the State that will come to your camp and give the course to your staff. There is no charge for this training. The course is about 2 and half hours long. You can find a list of trainers at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/cps/trainer-contact.html>.

We are working with the Department to establish a program to train your in-camp persons to give the course.

PL2015 Chapter 117 **An Act To Improve the Reporting of Child Abuse**. This law passed last year applies to camps this year for the first time. There are significant changes for reporting child abuse as the result of this law. MSC has published information about these changes on its website.