

**235A.21 Criminal penalties.**

1. Any person who willfully requests, obtains, or seeks to obtain child abuse information under false pretenses, or who willfully communicates or seeks to communicate child abuse information to any agency or person except in accordance with [sections 235A.15](#) and [235A.17](#), or any person connected with any research authorized pursuant to [section 235A.15](#) who willfully falsifies child abuse information or any records relating to child abuse information, or any employee of the department who knowingly destroys assessment data except in accordance with rule as established by the department for retention of child abuse information under [section 235A.18](#) is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. Any person who knowingly, but without criminal purposes, communicates or seeks to communicate child abuse information except in accordance with [sections 235A.15](#) and [235A.17](#) shall be guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

2. Any reasonable grounds for belief that a person has violated any provision of [this chapter](#) shall be grounds for the immediate withdrawal of any authorized access such person might otherwise have to child abuse information.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §235A.21]

[97 Acts, ch 176, §14, 42, 43](#)

Referred to in [§235A.12](#), [235A.17](#), [235A.19](#)