

235B.16 Information, education, and training requirements.

1. The department shall conduct a public information and education program. The elements and goals of the program include but are not limited to:

a. Informing the public regarding the laws governing dependent adult abuse and the reporting requirements for dependent adult abuse.

b. Providing caretakers with information regarding services to alleviate the emotional, psychological, physical, or financial stress associated with the caretaker and dependent adult relationship.

c. Affecting public attitudes regarding the role of a dependent adult in society.

2. The department, in cooperation with the department of inspections, appeals, and licensing, shall institute a program of education and training for persons, including members of provider groups and family members, who may come in contact with dependent adult abuse. The program shall include but is not limited to instruction regarding recognition of dependent adult abuse and the procedure for the reporting of suspected abuse.

3. The content of the continuing education required pursuant to [chapter 272C](#) for a licensed professional providing care or service to a dependent adult shall include, but is not limited to, the responsibilities, obligations, powers, and duties of a person regarding the reporting of suspected dependent adult abuse, and training to aid the professional in identifying instances of dependent adult abuse.

4. The department of inspections, appeals, and licensing shall provide training to investigators regarding the collection and preservation of evidence in the case of suspected dependent adult abuse.

5. a. For the purposes of [this subsection](#), “*licensing board*” means a board designated in [section 147.13](#), the board of educational examiners created in [section 256.146](#), or a licensing board as defined in [section 272C.1](#).

b. A person required to report cases of dependent adult abuse pursuant to [sections 235B.3](#) and [235E.2](#), other than a physician whose professional practice does not regularly involve providing primary health care to adults, shall complete two hours of training relating to the identification and reporting of dependent adult abuse within six months of initial employment or self-employment which involves the examination, attending, counseling, or treatment of adults on a regular basis. Within one month of initial employment or self-employment, the person shall obtain a statement of the abuse reporting requirements from the person’s employer or, if self-employed, from the department. The person shall complete at least two hours of additional dependent adult abuse identification and reporting training every three years. If the person completes at least one hour of additional dependent adult abuse identification and reporting training prior to the three-year expiration period, the person shall be deemed in compliance with the training requirements of [this section](#) for an additional three years.

c. The core training curriculum relating to the identification and reporting of dependent adult abuse, as provided in paragraph “b”, shall be developed by the department pursuant to [subsection 2](#) and provided by the department.

d. An employer of a person required to report cases of dependent adult abuse pursuant to [sections 235B.3](#) and [235E.2](#) may provide supplemental training, specific to the identification and reporting of dependent adult abuse as it relates to the person’s professional practice, in addition to the core training provided by the department.

e. A licensing board with authority over the license of a person required to report cases of dependent adult abuse pursuant to [sections 235B.3](#) and [235E.2](#) shall require as a condition of licensure that the person is in compliance with the requirements for abuse training under [this subsection](#). The licensing board shall require the person upon licensure renewal to accurately document for the licensing board the person’s completion of the training requirements. However, the licensing board may adopt rules providing for waiver or suspension of the compliance requirements, if the waiver or suspension is in the public interest, applicable to a person who is engaged in active duty in the military service of this state or of the United States, to a person for whom compliance with the training requirements would impose a significant hardship, or to a person who is practicing a licensed profession

outside this state or is otherwise subject to circumstances that would preclude the person from encountering dependent adult abuse in this state.

f. For persons required to report cases of dependent adult abuse pursuant to [sections 235B.3](#) and [235E.2](#), who are not engaged in a licensed profession that is subject to the authority of a licensing board but are employed by a facility or program subject to licensure, registration, or approval by a state agency, the agency shall require as a condition of the renewal of the facility's or program's licensure, registration, or approval, that such persons employed by the facility or program are in compliance with the training requirements of [this subsection](#).

g. For peace officers, the elected or appointed official designated as the head of the agency employing the peace officer shall ensure compliance with the training requirements of [this subsection](#).

h. For persons required to report cases of dependent adult abuse pursuant to [sections 235B.3](#) and [235E.2](#) who are employees of state departments and political subdivisions of the state, the department director or the chief administrator of the political subdivision shall ensure the persons' compliance with the training requirements of [this subsection](#).

6. The department shall require an educational program for employees of the registry on the proper use and control of dependent adult abuse information.

[91 Acts, ch 231, §14](#); [92 Acts, ch 1143, §10](#); [92 Acts, ch 1163, §51](#); [2001 Acts, ch 122, §11](#); [2002 Acts, ch 1119, §35](#); [2007 Acts, ch 10, §168 – 170](#); [2008 Acts, ch 1093, §10](#); [2009 Acts, ch 23, §53, 54](#); [2013 Acts, ch 129, §55, 56](#); [2019 Acts, ch 91, §4 – 6](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §720, 1945](#)

Referred to in [§152C.3](#), [235E.4](#), [256.165](#)

See Code editor's note on simple harmonization at the beginning of this Code volume

Section amended