Child Abuse & Neglect: A Guide for Child Care Professionals
Activity: Exploring Legal Requirements in Other States

During this course, we have primarily focused on the reporting system and tools in the State of Texas. Now, let’s take a look at the systems in place in other states. If you are a child care professional residing in a U.S. state other than Texas, you will be looking up information about reporting in your home state. If you are a child care professional in Texas, or in a country other than the United States, then you will be looking up information about reporting in the State of Maine. Follow the instructions below to look up the information, and use your findings to answer the questions, which are designed to help you compare and contrast the regulations in the state you are researching and the State of Texas.

1. Visit this website: http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/ by either clicking the link or copying and pasting the URL into your web browser.
2. Select the state you wish to look up. For professionals residing in Texas or abroad, select Maine from the list. For professionals residing in US states other than Texas, select the name of your home state.
3. In the section called Child Abuse and Neglect, click the check boxes next to the following items:
   - Immunity for Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect
   - Making and Screening Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect
   - Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect
   - Penalties for Failure to Report and False Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect
4. Click the Go! Button at the bottom of the page.
5. Read the results in detail, and answer the following questions:

   - Does your state provide immunity for good-faith reports of abuse or neglect? If so, under what circumstances would that immunity not apply?
   - Who do you need to contact to make a report of suspected abuse or neglect?
   - Are there mandated reporters in your state? If so, who are they? Does your state require anyone who suspects abuse or neglect to report?
   - What types of penalties are in place in your state for individuals who suspect abuse or neglect but fail to report? What penalties are in place in your state for individuals who file reports in bad faith or with malicious intent?