

**Statutory Requirements under Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance
for attention of all Dentists and Dental Hygienists**

The Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (“the Ordinance”), Cap. 650 was passed by the Legislative Council on 11 July 2024 and will come into operation on 20 January 2026.

According to Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Ordinance, a registered dentist within the meaning of the Dentists Registration Ordinance (Cap. 156) and an enrolled dental hygienist within the meaning of the Ancillary Dental Workers (Dental Hygienists) Regulations (Cap. 156 sub. leg. B) are the specified professionals for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.

Please access the following hyperlink for the full version of the Ordinance –

<https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/english/gazette/file.php?year=2024&vol=28&no=29&extra=0&type=1&number=23>

A summary of the mandatory reporting regime (Chinese version only) can be found in the following leaflet produced by the Commission on Children under the Labour and Welfare Bureau via the following hyperlink –

https://www.coc.gov.hk/files/20250221-leaflet_Website.pdf

As stated in the Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong (“the Code”) issued by the Dental Council of Hong Kong (“the Council”), all dental practitioners should be familiar with the provisions of the relevant legislation and guidelines listed therein. The abovementioned Ordinance will be added to the list of relevant legislations in the Code currently under review. Upon completion of the review, the updated Code will be distributed to all dentists.

The Dental Council of Hong Kong
April 2025