

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, I think there's a statute that spells out certain people that must report, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now would this mediator, with the law remaining the way it is, have to report child abuse? Senator Ashford has the statute. He's saying "yes". I'm not trying to trick you. I have another question I want to get to.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: My problem is that I don't, when you say under this amendment, I don't know Senator Ashford's amendment well enough to know if it's specifically in there but I would assume that, yes, under the...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, here's the...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ..current law, yes, they would.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And here's the language I'm talking about that we just dealt with and it's still in the bill. Nothing in this act shall restrict the mediator's obligation to repute...report abuse as required by Nebraska law. The abuse that the law requires to be reported is child abuse so, with the law as it is now, because you all wanted to keep it in there, the mediator must report child abuse if it comes out during the discussion. Isn't that right?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, is child abuse a crime in this state?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, if convicted, yes. Um-hum.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, if...should this person, who is the mediator, be required to notify these people that if you say anything to me about child abuse I have to report it and it can be the basis of a criminal charge?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, and certainly the basis for criminal investigation at a very minimum.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would you be willing, since you all want to leave this language in, to at least require the mediator to warn these people who have been encouraged to trust the mediator?