



# Child Abuse: Mandated Reporter Training for Educational Professionals

Note to Developers look like  
this and can be found  
throughout the course.





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## Course Overview

California law requires certain people to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect. For purposes of Executive Order 1083, which implements California law, School Personnel are "mandated reporters" and are required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect. In 2013, 89% of all reports made in the state of California were made by mandated reporters, led by school personnel. It is critical that adequate training be provided for mandated reporters. This 40-minute course has been designed to provide training to K-12 Personnel who are mandated to report suspected child abuse and neglect and provides an overview of the significant definitions, requirements and protections of the California Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA).

Upon conclusion of this course, you will walk away with a clear understanding regarding the law, their rules, lawful duties, consequences for non-compliance, and will need to sign an Acknowledgment of Understanding regarding these duties.





## Course Objectives



After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

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### Objective 1

Understand key definitions associated with mandated reporting and abuse

### Objective 2

Determine when reporting abuse is necessary

### Objective 3

Know the protocols associated with appointing a Mandated Reporting Coordinator

### Objective 4

Describe the procedures for Mandated Reporting



### Objective 5

Categorize the types of abuse

### Objective 6

Evaluate behaviors that are not child abuse

### Objective 7

Describe penalties for not reporting

### Objective 8

Acknowledge reporting responsibilities



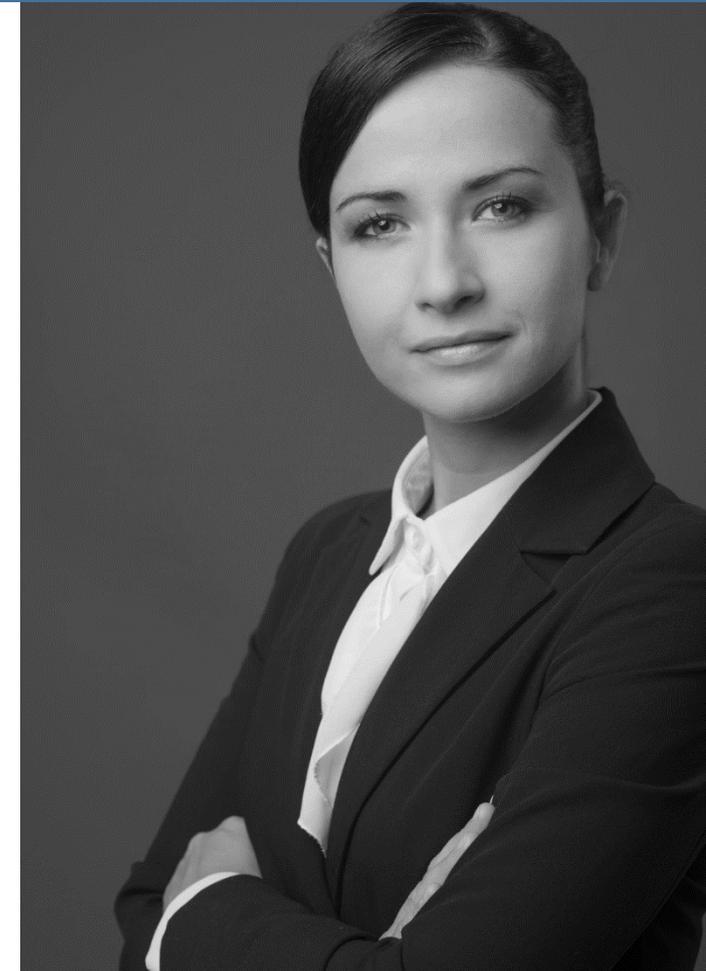
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Ann will lead you through this course.



My name is Ann. I am going to be leading you through the course.





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# Lesson 1: Mandated Reporting is the Law



## Statistics and Facts

Every year more than **3.6 million referrals** are made to **child protection agencies** involving more than 6.6 million children.

Yearly, referrals to state child protective services involve **6.6 million children**, and around 3.2 million of those children are subject to an investigated report. <sup>2</sup>

In 2014, state agencies identified an estimated **1,580 children who died as a result of abuse and neglect — between four and five children a day.** <sup>2</sup> However, studies also indicate significant undercounting of child maltreatment fatalities by state agencies — by 50% or more. <sup>3</sup>



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## Mandated Reporting

All States have statutes identifying persons who are required to report suspected child abuse, mistreatment or neglect to an appropriate agency, such as child protective services, a law enforcement agency, or a State's toll-free child abuse reporting hotline.

In 2013, 89% of all reports made in the state of California were made by mandated reporters, led by school personnel, who made 22% of reports of suspected child abuse or neglect<sup>4</sup>.



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## California Laws

CANRA stands for the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, and can be found in sections 11164-11174.3 of the California Penal Code. **Over the years, numerous amendments have expanded the definition of child abuse and the persons required to report. One such update occurred on July 21, 2017 in the form of Executive Order 1083.**

According to Executive Order 1083, which implements California law, if you are designated to report child abuse, then you are known as a "mandated reporter" or as a General Reporter.



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## Who Should Report?

As a Mandated Reporter when you know or reasonably suspect a child has been the victim of child abuse or neglect, you must report the suspected incident, no matter where it occurred (Penal Code §§ 11166(a)).

The primary intent of the reporting law is **to protect the child from abuse and neglect.**



To view a complete list click here.

California Mandated  
Reporters

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You have completed Lesson One and are well on your way.





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# Lesson 2: Key Definitions and Behaviors





## What is Child Abuse?

The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C.A. § 5106g) defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum:

- "Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation"; or
- "An act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm."

A "child" under this definition generally means a person who is younger than age 18 or who is not an emancipated minor.



All States have laws in place to protect children from abuse and neglect!

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## These are the Five Main Types Child Abuse And Neglect

- 1 **Physical abuse** - any intentional act causing injury or trauma to a child.
- 2 **Physical neglect** - a deficit in meeting a **child's** basic needs,
- 3 **Sexual Exploitation** - sexual **exploitation** is the sexual abuse of **children** and youth through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, other basics of life, and/or money.
- 4 **Sexual abuse** - **Sexual abuse**, also referred to as **molestation**, is usually undesired sexual behavior by one person upon another.
- 5 **Psychological abuse** (also referred to as psychological violence, emotional abuse, or mental abuse) is characterized by a person subjecting, or exposing, another person to behavior that may result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, chronic depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder.





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## Indicators of Physical Abuse

Here's what Mandated Reporters should look for as Indicators of Physical Abuse.

### Questionable Bruises and Welts:

- On face, lips, mouth, torso, back, buttocks, thighs;
- Injuries in various stages of healing;
- Clustered injuries that form regular patterns, which reflect the shape of article (electric cord, belt buckle) used to inflict injury;

### Questionable Burns:

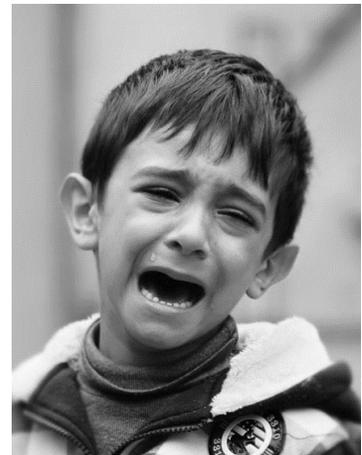
- Cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back, or buttocks;
- Immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like, doughnut shaped on buttocks or genitalia) patterned like electric burner, iron, etc.; or
- Rope burns on arms, legs, neck, or torso

### Questionable Fractures:

- To skull, nose, facial structure;
- Fractures in various stages of healing; or
- Multiple or spiral fractures.

### Questionable Cuts, Scrapes, Scratches, Lacerations or Abrasions:

- To mouth, lips, gums, eyes; or
- To external genitalia.





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## Indicators of Physical Neglect

Here's what Mandated Reporters should look for as Indicators of Physical Neglect.

There are three types of neglect including: Neglect, General Neglect, and Severe Neglect

### Physical Indicators:

- Consistently dirty and has severe body odor;
- Lacks clothing that is adequate for the weather;
- Has unattended health or medical needs, such as dental problems, hearing problems, or vision problems;

### Child Behavioral Indicators:

- Begs for or steals food or money;
- Extended stays at school (early arrival and late departure);
- Demonstrates constant fatigue, listlessness, or falling asleep in class;

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## Indicators of Sexual Exploitation

Here's what Mandated Reporters should look for as Indicators of Sexual Exploitation.

Indicators of Sexual Exploitation:

- Going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late
- Skipping school or being disruptive in class
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or possessions that can't be accounted for
- Experiencing health problems that may indicate a sexually transmitted infection
- Having mood swings and changes in temperament
- Using drugs and/or alcohol
- Displaying inappropriate sexualized behavior, such as over-familiarity with strangers, dressing in a sexualized manner or sending sexualized images by mobile phone ("sexting")
- Signs of unexplained physical harm, such as bruising and cigarette burns

The signs of child sexual exploitation may be hard to spot, particularly if a child is being threatened. To make sure that children are protected, it's worth being aware of the signs that might suggest a child is being sexually exploited.



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## Indicators of Sexual Abuse

Here's what Mandated Reporters should look for as Indicators of Sexual Abuse.

Physical Indicators :

- Child Physical Indicators
- Has difficulty walking or sitting;
- Has torn, stained, or bloody
- Has pain or itching in genital area;
- Has bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vaginal, or anal areas;
- Has a sexually transmitted disease, especially in pre-teens; or
- Becomes pregnant at a young age.
- Shows reluctance to change clothes for physical education classes or other recreational activities;
- Engages in highly sexualized play, that is different from age-appropriate form of exploration;
- Demonstrates an extreme fear of males (or females);
- Has a sudden drop in school performance;
- Bizarre or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge.

**Sexual abuse includes:**

- Incest;
- Rape;
- Intercourse;
- Oral-genital contact;
- Fondling;
- Sexual propositions or enticement;
- Indecent exposure;
- Child pornography; or
- Child prostitution.

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## Indicators of Emotional/Mental Abuse or Neglect (Psychological Abuse)

Here's what Mandated Reporters should look for as Indicators of Psychological Abuse.

Emotional/mental maltreatment can include patterns of:

- Verbal assaults (e.g., screaming, intimidating, rejecting, ridiculing, blaming, sarcasm);
- Ignoring and indifferent behavior to children; or
- Constant family conflict.

Physical Indicators :

- May have frequent stomach aches,
- head aches or unexplained weight fluctuations;
- May have speech disorders;
- May lag in physical development;
- May have a non-organic, failure-to-thrive medical diagnosis; or
- May have learning problems

Child Behavioral Indicators:

- Exhibits age-inappropriate behaviors such as thumb sucking, biting, head banging or rocking;
- Exhibits neurotic traits such as sleep disorders, inhibition of play;
- Exhibits extreme behaviors such as over compliance, passivity, aggression, withdrawal or inappropriate affect for the situation;
- Exhibits overly adaptive behavior such as inappropriate adult behavior.



## What is not Child Abuse or Neglect?

California law does not consider the following child abuse for reporting purposes:

1. Corporal punishment
2. Injuries caused by two children fighting during a mutual altercation (Penal Code§ 11165.4)
3. An injury caused by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of his or her employment (Penal Code§ 11165.6)
4. Reasonable and necessary force used by public school officials to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to person or damage to property (Penal Code§ 11165.4)
5. Voluntary sexual conduct between minors
6. Not receiving medical treatment for religious reasons (Penal Code§ 1165.2(b))
7. An informed and appropriate medical decision made by a parent or guardian after consultation with a physician who has examined the child (Penal Code§ 11165.2(b))



For mandated reporters, Penal Code 11172(a) provides absolute immunity from state criminal or civil liability for reporting as required. Mandated Reporters will only have immunity under federal claims if the report was made in good faith.



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## Reasonable Suspicion

If you have **reasonable suspicion** that a child is being abused, then as a school district staff member, you are required to report it.

What is **reasonable suspicion**? Reasonable suspicion is defined by the state of California as "objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse."



Reporting to a supervisor, a coworker, or other person shall not be a substitute for making a mandated report.



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You have completed Lesson Two. Keep up the good work!





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# Lesson 3: Scenarios: Behaviors, Risks, and Liabilities





## Case Study: The Importance of Following Reporting Protocol

In May 2012, an 11-year-old Orange County, California student told her math teacher that she was being sexually assaulted by a relative. The teacher responded by having the student write down an account of what happened, but when she couldn't find the school counselor, she sent the student home and waited until the next day to report the abuse.

In the state of California, school district employees are required to report any suspected or confirmed incidents of abuse to police or social services. While the teacher eventually informed the counselor, she failed to inform the proper channels, meaning the police or social services.

The teacher was charged with failure to report possible sexual assault and sentenced to a year's probation and 20 hours of community service. Remember, professional educators can lose their certificates for this type of misconduct.

In some cases, you might be a co-worker and suspect one of your colleagues is abusing their own child or the children in the classroom. This is certainly a difficult situation, but the same rule applies.

You must report your suspicions to the Child Abuse Hotline and the principal or your supervisor.



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## Scenario 1: Child Abuse

You are an employee at a school. A six-year-old child comes to school with apparent slap marks on his cheeks, and he is limping. He was absent the day before.

When you ask him what happened to his cheek, he replies that he fell while riding his bike. Do you report this injury?

- A. No, because falling off a bike is an accidental injury
- B. Yes, because he missed school the day prior
- C. No, it is a very minor injury
- ✓ D. Yes, because the injury is concerning for possible physical abuse

This is a patterned injury on the soft tissue of the face (cheek), so indicates child abuse. There are no abrasions or other injuries, so the explanation of the injury (falling off a bike) is not likely.



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## Scenario 2: Sexual Abuse

You become concerned because 9-year-old Marta, a student in your class, is caught exposing herself to kids on the playground and telling them to touch her.

You talk with her about this behavior, and she informs you that her 15-year-old brother always wants to see her “private parts” and likes to touch her.

### What should you do in this situation?

- A. Call Marta’s parents to tell them what she said and to ask questions about her brother.
- B. Talk to Marta’s brother and tell him he needs to stop behaving inappropriately.
- C. Report your concerns to the School Psychologist and hope she takes the appropriate action.
- ✓ D. Make a child abuse report for possible sexual abuse.

The correct response is D. This is the correct answer. Maria has made a disclosure of possible sexual abuse; you must report.



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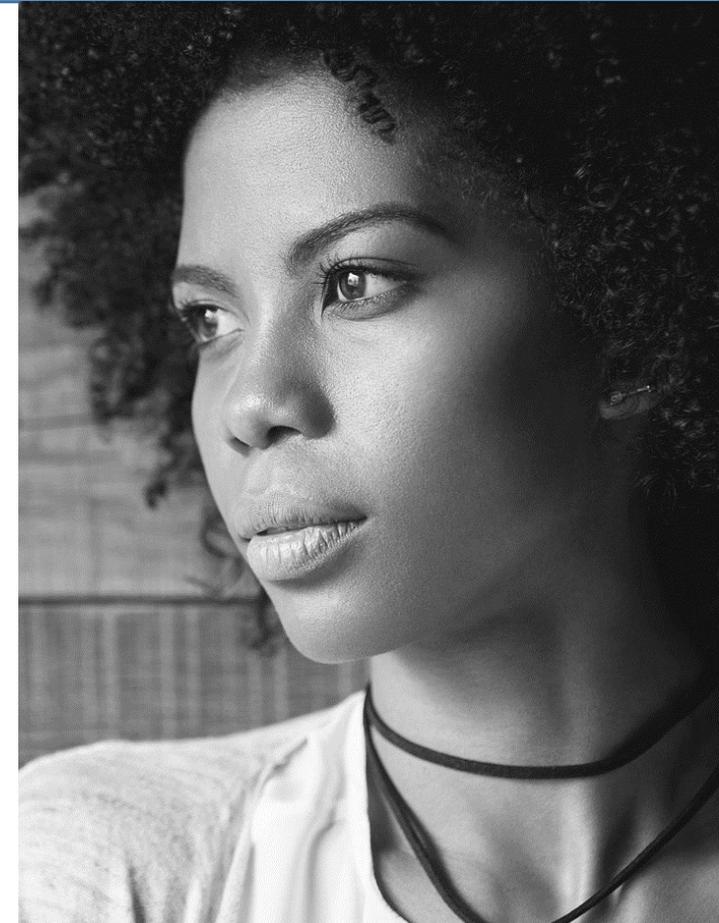
## Risks Associated with Not Reporting

### IMMUNITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORTER

Mandated Reporters cannot be held civilly or criminally liable for their reports. Instead, they enjoy immunity from prosecution for their reporting of suspected child abuse (Penal Code § 11172(a)). Both the identity of the person who reports and the report itself are confidential and disclosed only among appropriate agencies (Penal Code § 11167(d)).

### PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT ABUSE OR IMPEDING REPORT

A Mandated Reporter who fails to make a required report of abuse, or any administrator or supervisor who impedes or inhibits a report, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail, a fine of \$1,000, or both (Penal Code Section 11166(c) and Section 11166.01(a)). Where the abuse results in death or great bodily injury, the **Mandated Reporter who fails to make a required report or administrator or supervisor who impeded or inhibited the report is subject to punishment of up to one year in jail, a fine of \$5,000, or both** (Penal Code Section 11166.01(b)).



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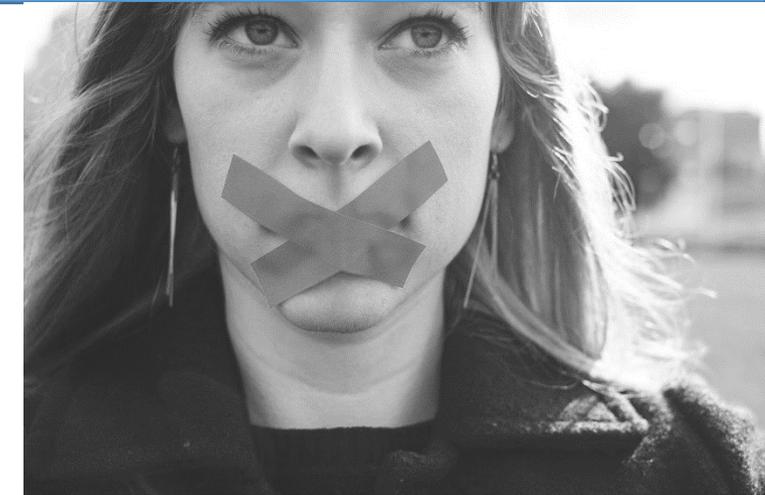
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## Retaliation and Mandated Reporting

Retaliation can best be described as an act of revenge. Many Mandated Reporters experience retaliation for simply performing their mandate.

### Types of Retaliation

Retaliation may include releasing the reporter's identity to the press and/or alleged perpetrator, defaming the Mandated Reporter's character, harassment, civil lawsuits, criminal charges, being fired or demoted, getting reported to one's state professional board, having one's professional license sanctioned or revoked, and even losing parental custody when the mandated reporter is also the parent.



Mandated Reporters may feel fearful about reporting due to the risks associated with retaliation. It is important to remember that ALL children deserve advocacy!



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# Lesson 4: Mandated Reporting



## How to Make a Mandated Report

### How to Make a Report of Child Abuse in California

Immediately, or as soon as possible, call a Child Protective Services agency (Child Welfare/Child Protective Services). **If the child is in imminent danger, call 9-1-1.**

Inform the agency that you are a Mandated Reporter.

File a written report within 36 hours of your verbal report (on Form SS 8572.)

### Child Abuse Report Form—Department of Justice Form SS8572

Mandated Reporters and/or their employers should keep blank copies of the form on file at all times. Copies of the form are available online at [http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss\\_8572.pdf](http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf) or from your local Child Protective Services Agency or by writing to:

California Department of Justice  
Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information  
P.O.Box 90317  
Sacramento, CA 94203-4170



 Stay objective. Don't let your feelings interfere with evidence gathering.



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# The Suspected Child Abuse Report Form

Here's a copy of the form that you would complete to report a child abuse incident.

A call reporting abuse must be followed within 36 hours by a written report to the child protective or law enforcement agency to which the telephone report was made (P.C. 11166 (a)).

Print      **SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT**      Reset Form  
 To Be Completed by Mandated Child Abuse Reporters Pursuant to Penal Code Section 11166

CASE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
CASE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

*PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE*

<b>A. REPORTING PARTY</b>	NAME OF MANDATED REPORTER		TITLE		MANDATED REPORTER CATEGORY	
	REPORTER'S BUSINESS/AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS Street City Zip				DID MANDATED REPORTER WITNESS THE INCIDENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	REPORTER'S TELEPHONE (DAYTIME) ( )		SIGNATURE		TODAY'S DATE	
<b>B. REPORT NOTIFICATION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW ENFORCEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY PROBATION		AGENCY			
	<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY WELFARE / CPS (Child Protective Services)		ADDRESS Street City Zip			
	DATE/TIME OF PHONE CALL				OFFICIAL CONTACTED - TITLE	
<b>C. VICTIM</b> <small>One report per victim</small>	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE		SEX    ETHNICITY	
	ADDRESS Street City Zip		TELEPHONE ( )			
	PRESENT LOCATION OF VICTIM		SCHOOL		CLASS    GRADE	
	PHYSICALLY DISABLED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		OTHER DISABILITY (SPECIFY)	
	PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN HOME		TYPE OF ABUSE (CHECK ONE OR MORE) <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL <input type="checkbox"/> SEXUAL <input type="checkbox"/> NEGLECT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)			
	IN FOSTER CARE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		IF VICTIM WAS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE AT TIME OF INCIDENT, CHECK TYPE OF CARE: <input type="checkbox"/> DAY CARE <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD CARE CENTER <input type="checkbox"/> FOSTER FAMILY HOME <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY FRIEND <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP HOME OR INSTITUTION <input type="checkbox"/> RELATIVE'S HOME			
RELATIONSHIP TO SUSPECT			PHOTOS TAKEN? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		DID THE INCIDENT RESULT IN THIS VICTIM'S DEATH? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	
<b>D. INVOLVED PARTIES</b> <small>VICTIMS PARENTS/GUARDIANS</small>	NAME		BIRTHDATE		SEX    ETHNICITY	
	1. _____		3. _____			
	2. _____		4. _____			
	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE		SEX    ETHNICITY	
ADDRESS Street City Zip		HOME PHONE ( )		BUSINESS PHONE ( )		
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE		SEX    ETHNICITY		
ADDRESS Street City Zip		HOME PHONE ( )		BUSINESS PHONE ( )		
SUSPECT'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE		SEX    ETHNICITY		
ADDRESS Street City Zip		TELEPHONE ( )				
OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION						
<b>E. INCIDENT INFORMATION</b>	IF NECESSARY, ATTACH EXTRA SHEET(S) OR OTHER FORM(S) AND CHECK THIS BOX			IF MULTIPLE VICTIMS, INDICATE NUMBER:		
	DATE / TIME OF INCIDENT		PLACE OF INCIDENT			
	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (What victim(s) said/what the mandated reporter observed/what person accompanying the victim(s) said/similar or past incidents involving the victim(s) or suspect)					

SS 8572 (Rev. 12/02)      DEFINITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE  
**DO NOT** submit a copy of this form to the Department of Justice (DOJ). The investigating agency is required under Penal Code Section 11169 to submit to DOJ a Child Abuse Investigation Report Form SS 8583 if (1) an active investigation was conducted and (2) the incident was determined not to be unfounded.  
 WHITE COPY-Police or Sheriff's Department;    BLUE COPY-County Welfare or Probation Department;    GREEN COPY-District Attorney's Office;    YELLOW COPY-Reporting Party



You can download the actual form here so that you can see in advance what you need to complete.

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## Helpful Hints in Completing the Report Form

1. Type the report, or write legibly, using blue or black ink.
2. DO NOT continue your report on another blank form, as only one form should be used per victim. Be sure to make a note on the form itself that there is a "Page 2."
3. The agency that receives your report will distribute copies of the report to the appropriate agencies. You may wish to make a copy of your report and any attachments for your agency's records.
4. It is helpful and best practice to fill out the form before you make your call to CPS so you don't forget anything.
5. Ask the intake worker to whom you are making the verbal report for their name and title and the case number assigned to the report for follow-up purposes. Note it on the form. Also be sure to record the date and time of your verbal report.
6. If you would prefer to submit your report on-line you will need an access code. Be certain to ask the person you speak with for the access code to submit on-line.



 For additional hints, form access, and other information, click on the tab below.

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## What Happens After a Report is Made?

**Risk Assessment** – Child Protective Services (CPS) will conduct a risk assessment which may be based on the following:

- Frequency of maltreatment
- Vulnerability of the child due to age or disability
- When the event occurred
- Multiple CPS reports, in and out of county
- Unrelated adults in the home
- Children under age five in the home
- Allegation of drug use
- Psychiatric history
- Criminal history
- History of violence in the home



After you make the report, Child Protective Services (CPS) conducts a risk assessment.

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## Report Dispositions

According to California Penal Code Section 11165.12, after investigations by a child protective agency are complete, reports will be placed in one of three categories:

"**Unfounded Report**" - determined to be false, inherently improbable, involve accidental injury, or not constitute child abuse as defined in the law.

"**Substantiated Report**" - the report is based on credible evidence and constitutes child abuse or neglect.

"**Inconclusive Report**" - the findings are inconclusive and there is insufficient evidence to determine whether child abuse and neglect has occurred.

Only substantiated reports of child abuse and severe neglect must be forwarded to the Department of Justice.



 Remember, as a Mandated Reporter, you need to report your observations and potential abuse – even if the abuse may be “unfounded.”



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## Licensing Requirements for Mandated Reporters

Any state agency issuing a license to a person who is required to report child abuse must either send a statement to the licensee when issuing the license explaining reporting requirements and the penalty for failure to report, or print the information on all application forms (P.C. 11166.5 (b) (c)).

Effective January 1, 2015, when teachers apply for initial credentials or renewals, they will also be required to sign a statement acknowledging that they understand their reporting duties pursuant to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act. (E.C. 44252 (a)(2)(A)). As noted earlier, educators who fail to report suspected abuse or neglect may lose their license or credential.



 The form you need to sign is the **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANDATED REPORTER STATUS AND LEGAL DUTY TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

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## Questions and Concerns Regarding Mandated Reporting

For mandated reporters, Penal Code 11172(a) provides absolute immunity from state criminal or civil liability for reporting as required. However, **mandated reporters will only have immunity under federal claims if the report was made in good faith.**

Legally mandated reporters can be criminally liable for failing to report suspected abuse or neglect. The penalty for this misdemeanor is up to six months in jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine. Mandated reporters can also be subject to a civil lawsuit, and found liable for damages, especially if the child-victim or another child is further victimized because of the failure to report.



 **Mandated Reporters will only have immunity under federal claims if the report was made in good faith.**



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## Homeless Children and Mandatory Reporting

There are thousands of homeless children of school age in California. Many live in shelters, in run-down motels, with relatives, or with multiple families living in a single-family dwelling. They may appear dirty, seldom attend school, and lack proper nutrition. They may look like an abused child. These kids are victims of low economic conditions.

For more information about prevention or intervention resources available for students facing barriers to their education, visit the Counseling and Student Support Office website of the California Department of Education at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg>.



“It is not my fault that I am homeless. Give me hope so that I can flourish.”



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## Mandated Reporting and Children with Disabilities

Children with Disabilities are considered to be a vulnerable population and are more likely to be subject to abuse than other populations. As with the non-disabled population, perpetrators of child maltreatment are most often family members, or others who are known to and trusted by the child and/or family.

In caring for children with disabilities, be aware that children with disabilities

1. May be used to having their bodies touched by adults because of their need for care
2. May be exposed to multiple caregivers
3. May be unable to distinguish abusive from non-abusive acts due to intellectual impairment
4. May have impaired communication
5. Are viewed negatively by society, resulting in isolation and lack of social support

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You have completed Lesson Four. You have one lesson to go.





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# Lesson 5: Further Considerations



## Mandated Reporters Help Children in Danger

A report of suspected maltreatment is not an accusation. It is a request to help a child who is in danger. However, the reporting process may not always go smoothly. Difficulties prevent reporting or discourage continued involvement in situations of child abuse and neglect. It is very important to remember how vital your role is as a Mandated Reporter.

Reporting ensures that social services become aware of potential concerns. Mandated Reporting ensures that your legal obligation will be fulfilled.



Abused and neglected children cannot be protected unless they are first identified. The key to identification is reporting.



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## Tips for Handling an Abused or Neglected Child

It is important to remember to handle the discussion with sensitivity when you need to talk to a child in response to a disclosure of maltreatment or to clarify suspicions.

Follow all schoolwide policies and procedures regarding Mandated Reporting.

1. Find a private place to talk without interruptions.
2. Reassure the child that he/she is not in trouble.
3. Keep your own feelings under control.
4. Use open-ended questions such as: “Can you tell me what happened?” or “I’m wondering who taught you how to do that.”
5. Use the child’s vocabulary.



 Remember to follow all procedures as outlined in schoolwide handling of these incidences.



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You have completed Lesson Five. Advance to the Resources Section of the Course





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# Resources



1. Crosse, S.B., Kaye, E. & Ratnofsky, A.C. (1993). A Report on the Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities. Washington, D.C.: National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, DHHS. Hibbard, Robert A., Desch, Larry W., and the Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect and Council on Children With Disabilities (2007). Maltreatment of Children With Disabilities. Pediatrics, 119(5),1018-1025.
2. Sullivan, P.M. & Knutson, J.F. (2000a). Maltreatment and disabilities: A population-based epidemiological study. Child Abuse & Neglect, 24, 1257-1274.
3. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990: [www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm](http://www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm)
4. The Arc: [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org)
5. Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml> (Penal Code Section 11164-11174.3)
6. Child Welfare Information Gateway: [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)
7. National Child Traumatic Stress Network: [www.NCTSN.net](http://www.NCTSN.net)
8. Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center: [www.ncjrs.gov](http://www.ncjrs.gov)
9. Resolution on the Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities Adopted by the APA Council of Representatives, February 2003 <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/maltreatment.pdf>
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11. Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013). Preventing child abuse and neglect. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/preventingcan.pdf>
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The End – Thank you for participating.

Exit Course