

Child Abuse Reporting



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Why Does Child Abuse Occur?

- ◉ Physical Condition
- ◉ Mental Abilities
- ◉ Untreated Mental Illness
- ◉ Parent Child Interaction
- ◉ Lack of Parenting Skills
- ◉ Social/Emotional Functioning
- ◉ Drug/Alcohol Problems



Why Do You Report?

- To protect the child
- To comply with the law
- To get help for the family



Mandated Reporting



Responsibilities

- Under CA state law, the child abuse reporting law (Penal Code §11166) requires certain professionals and laypersons, who have a special working relationship or contact with children, to report known or suspected abuse to the proper authorities.



Who Reports?

A mandated reporter includes:

- Medical and non-medical practitioners
- School staff
- Firefighters
- Probation officers
- Social workers
- Animal control officers



When Do You Report?

- A phone report immediately upon suspicion or knowledge.
- A written report required within 36 hours.



Criteria for Reporting

- ◉ Observation
- ◉ Reasonable Suspicion
- ◉ Knowledge of Abuse



Mandated Reporting Laws

- You are legally mandated to report:
 - Physical Abuse
 - Severe or general neglect
 - Unjustifiable mental suffering
 - Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of a child
 - Sexual abuse
 - Sexual exploitation



Responsibilities

- Reporting is an individual responsibility;
- No supervisor or administrator may interfere with the individual reporting responsibility;
- Mandated reporters must disclose their names but your identity remains anonymous.



Responsibilities

- If two or more mandated reporters are present and jointly have knowledge, they may elect one person to report.
- However, if the person elected to report fails to do so, then the other person is responsible for making the report.



Who Do You Report To?

***** Call 911 if there is a life-threatening emergency to a child*****

1. Call the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) Child Abuse and Neglect Center to report child abuse or neglect:
 - **San Jose Area**
(408) 299-2071
 - **Gilroy/Morgan Hill Area**
(408) 683-0601
 - **Palo Alto Area**
(650) 493-1186
2. Complete a State of California Suspected Child Abuse Report (SS8572).
3. Mail the written report (SS8572) within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident to the:
 - **Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services Child Abuse and Neglect Center 373 West Julian St. - Second Floor San Jose CA 95110**



Failure to Report

- Misdemeanor:

- Failure to report by telephone immediately or as soon as practically possible.
- Failure to report in writing within 36 hours.

- Punishable by one or both:

- Up to 6 months in jail.
- Up to \$1,000 in fines.



Child Abuse



Types of Child Abuse

- ◉ Physical Abuse
- ◉ Physical Neglect
- ◉ Sexual Abuse
- ◉ Emotional Maltreatment



Physical Abuse

● Typical locations of injuries

- back surface of the body from the neck to the knees
- injuries to the face
- injuries on both sides of the body
- injuries on several different parts of the body

● Not typical locations of injuries

- shins
- elbows
- knees
- forehead



Physical Indicators

● Types of Injuries

- bruises
- burns
- bite marks
- abrasions
- lacerations
- head injuries



Behavioral Indicators

- Defined as a child's actions or observable behaviors

The child:

- attempts to hide injuries
- is frightened to go home
- is wary of physical contact with adults
- exhibits drastic behavioral changes
- exhibits depression, suicide attempts



Additional Indicators

- A statement by the child that the injury was caused by abuse.
- Knowledge that the child's injury is unusual for the child's specific age group.
- Knowledge of the child's history of previous or recurrent injuries.
- Unexplained injuries.
- A parent or caretaker who delays seeking or fails to seek medical care for the child's injury.



Physical Neglect

- Defined as the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a parent or caretaker

Types

- Severe neglect - severe malnutrition or a failure to thrive
- General neglect - failure to provide basic needs, medical care and/or supervision



Physical Neglect

- Lack of adequate medical or dental care
- Often sleepy, hungry, dirty, poor personal hygiene or is inadequately dressed for weather conditions
- Poor or inadequate supervision for the child's age
- Unsafe or unsanitary home
- Depressed, withdrawn or apathetic
- Exhibits antisocial or destructive behavior, fearful, or suffers from substance abuse, speech, eating or habit disorders



Sexual Abuse

- ◉ Defined as sexual assault or sexual exploitation of a minor
- ◉ Can include: rape, gang rape and incest
- ◉ Can be a single incident or many acts over a long period of time
- ◉ Intrafamilial vs. Extrafamilial abuse



Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- Disclosure by the child - direct or indirect
- Knowledge that a child's injury is unusual for age
- Knowledge of a child's history of previous or recurrent injuries
- Unexplained injuries/diseases (difficulty walking/sitting)
- A young girl is pregnant



Sexual Behaviors of Children

- Detailed and age-inappropriate understanding of sexual behavior
- Inappropriate, unusual or aggressive sexual behavior with peer or toys
- Compulsive indiscrete masturbation
- Excessive curiosity about sexual matters
- Unusually seductive with classmates or adults
- Excessive concern about homosexuality



Behavioral Indicators in Children

- School problems
- Age-inappropriate behavior
- Drastic behavior changes
- Frightened of parents/caretaker or of going home
- Chronic depression
- Poor hygiene or excessive bathing
- Poor peer relations and social skills
- Withdrawn/acting out or delinquent behavior
- Self-destructive behavior



Emotional Maltreatment

Defined as emotional abuse and emotional deprivation or neglect

- Put downs
- Screaming
- Threats
- Blaming
- Sarcasm
- Unpredictable responses
- Constant family discord



Behavioral Indicators

- Bed wetting and fecal soiling
- Withdrawn, depressed
- Clingy
- “Acts out”
- Exaggerated fearfulness



What is NOT Child Abuse?

- ◉ Kids that are fighting
- ◉ Injuries by a Peace Officer within the scope of work
- ◉ Pregnancy of a minor, regardless of her age, does not, in and of itself, constitute the basis of reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse
- ◉ If the child: uses drugs, belongs to a gang, or is a runaway



Domestic Violence



Domestic Violence

- A mandated reporter must consider whether there is a risk of physical or emotional harm to the child.
- Other factors must exist which lead the mandated reporter to reasonable suspect that the child's physical or emotional health is endangered as the result of domestic violence.



Domestic Violence

A mandated reporter must report a domestic violence incident which caused:

- Physical injury to the child or created a serious risk of physical injury to the child.
- Serious emotional damage to the child or created a substantial risk of serious emotional damage to the child.



Domestic Violence

The child's safety will be assessed in terms of "the nature and severity of past violence, the risk of violence in the future, the child's degree of exposure and resilience, the presence of protective factors in the immediate and extended family, and available support from the community."

(Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 1999, p.64.)



Mock Report



robat Docume

