Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training

John Christiansen
Coordinator, Child Welfare, and Attendance
Ceres Unified
Mandated Reporters

- Teacher
- Instructional aide
- Teacher’s aide
- Classified employee of any public school
- Certificated pupil personnel employee of any public or private school
- Headstart teacher
- Any employee of a county office of education or CA Dept. of Ed.; whose duties bring employees into contact with children on regular basis; and an employee of a school district police or security dept.
Reasonable suspicion is formed IF it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such a suspicion, based upon facts that would cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate on his or her training and experience to suspect child abuse.
Any child who comes within any of the following descriptions is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court which may adjudge that person to be a dependent child of the court.

A. Physical Abuse
B. Inability/negligent failure to supervise
C. Serious emotional damage
D. Sexual abuse
E. Severe physical abuse of a child under 5
F. Causing the death of another child
G. Child left without provisions for support
I. Acts of cruelty
H. Minor freed for adoption
J. Prior abuse of siblings
Mandated Reporting Timelines

By phone: 800-558-3665 or 209-558-3268, as soon as humanly possible after forming reasonable suspicion.

In writing: On DOJ form 8572 within 36 hours of making the phone call.

Liability

Any person who fails to report: is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable up to six months in jail punishable by fine up to $1000 or both and may be subject to civil damages.
Reporting Sexual Abuse

Any lewd touching or act engaged in with a child that is done with the intent of arousing or gratifying the sexual desires of either the person involved or the child.

Reporting Neglect

The extreme or persistent failure of a person responsible for the child’s welfare to provide necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision.

Also coded as neglect are children/mothers who test positive for drugs at birth.
Emotional Abuse

The systematic diminishment of a child.

It may include verbal assault such as belittling, screaming, threats, or blaming.

Caretaker Absence/Incapacity

When a child has no appropriate caretaker or the parent is not able to take care of the child because of the parent’s abilities.

Law enforcement is usually involved.
Mandated Reporting

- No one can prevent you from reporting.
- You cannot delegate this to someone else.
- Reporter Remains Confidential.

Reporting Physical Abuse

Non-accidental act that results in physical injury.

Ex: bruising, burning, biting, cutting, poking, twisting limbs, or torturing.
Penal Code Section 11174.3(a)

“Whenever a representative of a child protective agency deems it necessary, a suspected victim of child abuse may be interviewed during school hours, on school premises, concerning a report of suspected child abuse that occurred within the child’s home.”

Don’t ask leading questions.
SAMPLE

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT

To Be Completed by Reporting Party
Pursuant to Penal Code Section 11166

NAME/TITLE: Susan Smith / Family Therapist
ADDRESS: 1234 A Street Modesto CA 95353
PHONE: (209) 555-1234
DATE OF REPORT: 8/25/99
SIGNATURE: Susan Smith

A CASE FOCUSED
TO BE COMPLETED BY INVESTIGATING CPA
VICTIM NAME:
REPORT NO/CASE NAME:
DATE OF REPORT:

POLICE DEPARTMENT □ SHERIFF'S OFFICE □ COUNTY WELFARE □ COUNTY PROBATION

AGENCY: CPS
ADDRESS: PO. Box 42 Modesto CA 95353
OFFICIAL CONTACTED: Dina Moreno
PHONE: (209) 555-3665
DATE/TIME: 8/24/99 12:00 pm

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE): Jones Anne
ADDRESS: 123 H Street Modesto CA 95353
SEX: F RACE: W

PRESENT LOCATION OF CHILD
Home - 123 H Street

NAME: Jones Adam
BIRTHDATE: 1/1/87
SEX: M RACE: W

INFORMED PARTIES

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE): Jones Lisa
BIRTHDATE: 5/14/68
SEX: F RACE: W
ADDRESS: 123 H Street Modesto CA 95353

HOME PHONE: (209) 555-2419
BUSINESS PHONE: (209) 555-5151

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE): Jones Bob
BIRTHDATE: unk
SEX: M RACE: W
ADDRESS: Unknown

HOME PHONE: ( )
BUSINESS PHONE: ( )

IF NECESSARY, ATTACH EXTRA SHEET OR OTHER FORM AND CHECK THIS BOX: □

1. DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: Unknown
2. PLACE OF INCIDENT: 123 H Street Modesto CA

3. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

Anne told me that her mother has been spanking her with a belt and that she has gotten bruised from being spanked.

4. SUMMARIZE WHAT THE ABUSED CHILD OR PERSON ACcompanyING THE CHILD SAID HAPPENED:

Anne said her mom spanks her all the time with a belt. Anne said her legs were blue last week from being spanked.

5. EXPLAIN KNOWN HISTORY OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS FOR THIS CHILD:

Anne said she talked to a social worker before because her mom spanked her. This was when she was living in San Jose CA.

INSTRUCTIONS AND DISTRIBUTION ON REVERSE

DO NOT submit a copy of this form to the Department of Justice (DOJ). A CPA is required under Penal Code Section 11169 to submit to DOJ a Child Abuse Investigation Report Form SS-8593 if (1) an active investigation has been conducted and (2) the incident is not unfounded.

Police or Sheriff-WHITE Copy; County Welfare or Probation-BLUE Copy; District Attorney-GREEN Copy; Reporting Party-YELLOW Copy
Mandated Reporting

The intake screener will either:

Assign as an immediate response or assign for a ten day response or screen out with full documentation.

Child Welfare Investigation

The emergency response worker may:

Substantiate abuse or neglect or make an inconclusive finding or determine report was unfounded.
Temporary Custody

Social worker may take custody when there is:

- Immediate danger
- Immediate need for medical care

Usually involves law enforcement under WIC 305 & 306