



## **Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect**

Every state has requirements about reporting child abuse and neglect including what must be reported, who is required to report, how the reports are made, and the penalties for not reporting.

These requirements vary by state, so it is important to know what the requirements are in the state where you live and work.

[www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/state/index.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/index.cfm)

## **Who are Mandatory Reporters?**

As a teacher or other school professional, you are in a unique position to develop a relationship with a child. Children often disclose abuse or neglect to a person they feel is safe. You may be a child's only advocate.

## **WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?**

**"Abuse"** means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual injury or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of a child includes acts or omissions. Corporal discipline of a child by a parent or legal custodian for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse when it does not result in harm to the child.

**"Neglect"** occurs when a child is deprived of, or is allowed to be deprived of, necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment or a child is permitted to live in an environment when such deprivation or environment causes the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired or to be in danger of being significantly impaired.

**"Abandoned"** means a situation in which the parent or legal custodian of a child or, in the absence of a parent or legal custodian, the caregiver, while being able, makes no provision for the child's support, makes no effort to communicate with the child and has failed to establish or maintain a substantial and positive relationship with the child.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

15757 North 78<sup>th</sup> Street Suite B · Scottsdale, AZ 85260 · T 480-922-8212 · F 480-922-7061 · [www.childhelp.org/SpeakUpBeSafe](http://www.childhelp.org/SpeakUpBeSafe)

## **WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED?**

When you feel you want to talk about a child abuse or neglect situation, call the 24/7 Childhelp Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1800-422-4453), however, if you want to make an official report, please call your local authorities. The Childhelp Hotline counselors can assist you with contact information.

The Childhelp Counselors will:

1. Listen to your concerns and needs
2. Answer your questions
3. Ask you questions to be sure he/she understands what you are saying
4. Suggest things you can do to get help in the described circumstances

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