

# Who is a Mandated Reporter?



# Some Mandated Reporters

- “School Officials”
  - School Administrators
  - Teachers
  - Guidance Counselors
  - Psychologists
  - Social Workers
  - School Nurses
  - Other school personnel required to hold teaching or administrative license or certification

# What is a report?

A report to the SCR is not an accusation, but a request for an investigation by local child protective services.

# Child: Person Less than 18 years of age

- If the person is less than 18 years of age, then Child Protective Services should be contacted.
- If the person is 18 years or older, then Adult Protective Services should be contacted.

# Child Abuse

- Inflicting a physical injury or allowing such injury to be inflicted, or
- Creating a substantial risk of injury or allowing such risk to be created, or
- Committing a sex offense or allowing a sex offense to be committed

# Maltreatment/Neglect

Child's physical, mental or emotional health is impaired or is imminent danger of being impaired due to:

- Inadequate provision of food, clothing, shelter, education and/or medical/dental care
- Inadequate provision of supervision
- Infliction of excessive corporal punishment
- Caretaker's misuse of drugs or alcoholic beverages to the extent that they lose self-control of their actions.

# Person Legally Responsible

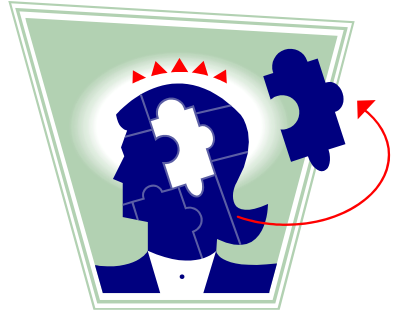
- Any person continually or at regular intervals found in the same household as a child. (F.C.A. 1012(g))
  - Parent
  - Parent Substitute
  - Babysitter
  - Step Parent
  - Paramour
  - Other relative

# Reasonable Cause to Suspect

- Based upon what you have observed or been told, combined with your training and experience, you believe that harm or imminent danger of harm to a child could be the result of an act or an omission by the parent or other person legally responsible for the child.
- “When in doubt, make the call.”



If you have to think about it...



???

**CALL THE REGISTRY**

*What if there really is no child  
abuse or maltreatment?*

# Immunity From Liability

- Any mandated reporter that in good faith makes a report to the State Central Registry is immune from criminal and civil liability (S.S.L. §419).

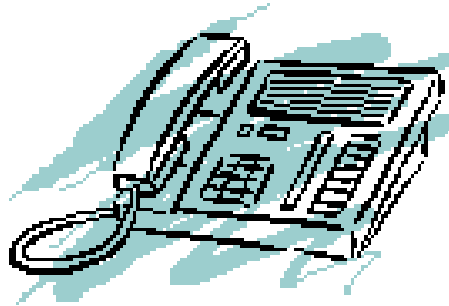
# Penalties for Failure to Report

- Failure to make a report to the State Central Registry is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor.
- A mandated reporter who fails to report may also be sued in civil court for monetary damages for any harm caused by the failure to report.

# Okay I'll call...What Will They Ask?

- Name and address of the child(ren) and of parent or other person legally responsible for the child(ren);
- Child(ren)'s age, gender and race;
- Nature and extent of injuries, abuse or maltreatment;
- Name of person(s) you believe to be responsible for the abuse or maltreatment;
- Location of child at time of report;
- Your name and contact information,
- Safety concerns for CPS (weapons, animals, propensity for violence)

# The Number to call...



- Mandated Reporter Express Line:
- **1-800-635-1522**
- Public Hotline Number
- **1-800-342-3720**

# Proof of the Call

- Ask for the “Call ID”.
- Keep a record of any calls you place to the SCR, whether or not the call is accepted.
- Get the name of the person spoken to.

# After the Call

- Within 48 hours, complete the LDSS-2221-A form and submit it to the:

Westchester County Department of Social Services  
Office of Child Protective Services  
112 East Post Road  
White Plains, New York)



# A Summary of a CPS Investigation

- Face-to-face contact with the child within 24 hours of receipt of the report;
- Observe the home;
- Obtain immediate medical attention for the child where appropriate;
- Interview the subject child, siblings and other children in the home;
- Investigate parent or person legally responsible;
- Check school attendance and medical/dental treatment, etc.

# The Result of the Investigation

- CPS has 60 days to complete its investigation and either indicate or unfound the report. Services, including placement of the child out of the home, can be mandated by court order or provided by the Department of Social Services on a voluntary basis to ensure the child's safety and the well-being.

# Source Confidentiality

- Social Services Law provides confidentiality for mandated reporters and all sources of child abuse and maltreatment reports.
- OCFS and local CPS are not permitted to release any data that would identify the source of a report unless the source gives written permission for such release. Information may be shared with court officials and law enforcement, but only in certain circumstances.