

Child Abuse & Neglect

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act [11164 - 11174.3]

http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=11165.1&lawCode=PEN



APRIL IS NATIONAL
CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH

In 2015, 3 out of every 1,000 children under the age of 18 were victims of some form of child abuse or neglect in Alameda County. (Annie Casey Foundation)

Alameda County Child Abuse Hotline (510) 259-1800
Fax (510) 780-8620

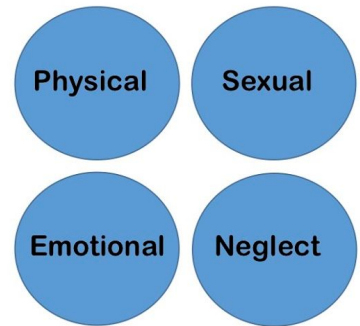
Pleasanton Police Department (925) 931-5100

The rate of substantiated (confirmed) child maltreatment has shown little change over the past several years, although it is remarkably lower in 2017 than in 1990, having fallen from 13 per 1,000 children to 9 per 1,000 nationwide.

- Rates of physical, sexual, and psychological or emotional abuse have declined substantially since 2000, while rates of neglect have declined the least.
- Younger children are maltreated at higher rates than older children; the rate for children ages 0 to 3 is three times the rate for children ages 16 to 17 (15 and 5 per 1,000 children in 2017, respectively).

ChildTrends.org

4 Main Types of Abuse



Click [here](#) for a description of each type of abuse.

Who are Mandated Reporters?

- Teachers
- School Administrators
- After school program staff
- All PUSD personnel
- Therapist
- Child care worker
- Police Officer
- Firefighter
- Physician
- Nurse
- Animal Control Officer
- Child visitation monitor

PC 11165.7 outlines 44 identified occupations that are mandated reporters.

What is a Mandated Reporter?

"A mandated reporter is required to report child abuse if he or she, in their professional capacity, or within the scope of his or her employment has knowledge of, or observed a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect."

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, CA Penal Code 11166

When would a report be made by a mandated reporter?

"Reasonable Suspicion" occurs when "it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such a suspicion, when based upon the 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."

California Penal Code 11166[a]



Mandated Reporters are not the only people who may reach out to make a report of suspected abuse and/or neglect.

Any citizen/individual is considered a non-mandated reporter and can call in a report.

Some examples are:

- Family
- Ex-spouses
- Concerned friend/neighbor
- Community member

Can Child Welfare see your child without your permission?

"Whenever a representative of a government agency investigating suspected child abuse or neglect or the State Department of Social Services deems it necessary, a suspected victim of child abuse or neglect may be interviewed during school hours, on school premises, concerning a report of suspected child abuse or neglect that occurred within the child's home or out-of-home care facility."

CA Penal Code 11174.3.[a]

Click here to learn more:

[Ten Things Everyone Should Know About Child Protective Services](#)

Who are the perpetrators of Child Abuse?

- Child abuse occurs across the spectrum of socioeconomic conditions and within all types of families.
- Perpetrators of **child abuse and neglect** are most often the child's own parents.
- Most cases of **child sexual abuse** are perpetrated by family members or caregivers who are known to the child.



Psychology Today

How to Protect your Child from Abuse and Neglect?

Part 1: Teach your child about boundaries

1. Tell your children that personal space should be respected.
2. Teach your child about private body parts early.
3. Make it clear that it is never okay to hurt others.
4. Intervene if your child doesn't enforce their boundaries.
5. Encourage your child to be assertive.
6. Tell you child that they shouldn't keep secrets from you.
7. Establish and respect privacy rules in your home.

Part 2: Explaining abuse to your kids

1. Describe potentially unsafe situations in a non-threatening way.
2. Warn them to stay away from strangers.
3. Teach your child about online safety.
4. Discuss consent as your child matures.
5. Explain that adults can be bullies, too.
6. Teach them how to get out of an uncomfortable situation.

Part 3: Keeping your child safe

1. Take time to actively listen to your child.
2. Participate in activities at their daycare or school.
3. Be aware of any adults who give your child special attention.
4. Monitor your child's use of technology.
5. Look for signs that a child has been abused.

Part 4: Handling suspected abuse

1. Ask your child directly and gently if you notice something is wrong.
2. Keep you cool, and don't threaten a suspected abuser.
3. Emphasize that your child did nothing wrong.
4. Take your child to the hospital, or call 510-259-1800

For detailed information:

[Protect-Your-Children-from-Child-Abuse](#)

The **National Child Traumatic Stress Network's** webpage

What Is Child Traumatic Stress offers definitions, materials on understanding child traumatic stress, and several Q&A documents:[National Child Traumatic Stress Network Q & A](#)

Resources

Alameda County

- [Alameda County Child Abuse Prevention Council](#)
- [Alameda County Social Services](#)
- [Suspected Child Abuse Reporting form](#)

PUSD School Social Worker [Website](#)

- [Food](#) (Hot Meals & Pantries)
- [Parenting](#)
- [Technology](#)

Emergency support

Bay Area Crisis Nursery

1506 Mendocino Drive, Concord
(925) 685-8052 Nursery (ages 0-5)
(925) 685-3695 Dahlstrom House (6-11yr)

Completely free resource to families under stress that need a temporary place for their children.