

WHO IS A MANDATED REPORTER?

Pennsylvania law includes a specific list of adults, who have a legal responsibility to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

- 1.) A person licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field
- 2.) A medical examiner, coroner or funeral director
- 3.) An employee of a health care facility or provider who is engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of individuals
- 4.) A school employee
- 5.) An employee of a child care service, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment
- 6.) A clergyman, priest, rabbi, minister, Christian Science practitioner, religious healer or spiritual leader of any regularly established church or other religious organization
- 7.) An independent contractor
- 8.) An emergency medical services provider
- 9.) An individual paid or unpaid, who, on the basis of the individual's role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity or service, accepts responsibility for a child
- 10.) An employee of a social services agency, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment
- 11.) A peace officer or law enforcement official
- 12.) An employee of a public library, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment
- 13.) An individual supervised or managed by a mandated reporter who has direct contact with children in the course of employment
- 14.) Attorneys affiliated with an agency organization or institution that is responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or control of children
- 15.) A foster parent
- 16.) An adult family member responsible for a child's welfare and provides services to a child in a family living home, community home for individuals with intellectual disabilities or host home for children which are subject to supervision or licensure by the department



125 N. Enola Drive, Enola, PA 17025
www.pcar.org 1-888-772-PCAR



www.facebook.com/PCAR



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WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse is an abuse of power and takes away a child's right to healthy and trusting relationships. Young children depend on adults for care and safety. The more dependent children are, the more at risk they are.

Child abuse thrives in silence, secrecy, and shame. There are many reasons why children don't tell about abuse. They may feel responsible or worry that they won't be believed.

Caring adults can learn to spot behavior changes, listen to children, and protect them from abuse. We all have the responsibility to create a space where children are safe, respected, and believed.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse occurs when a person exposes a child to sexual acts or behaviors. It is never the child's fault— children rely on the people in their lives for support, safety, and respect.

Child sexual abuse happens at an alarming rate. A recent national survey found nearly one in six adolescents reported experiencing sexual abuse in the past year, and more than one in four had been sexually victimized during their lifetime (Finkelhor, Turner, Ormrod, Hamby, & Kracke, 2009).

Individuals who sexually abuse children often look and act like nice people, holding positions of trust and power. 93% of the time the child knows their abuser – it can be a family member or friend of the family (Snyder, 2000).



ChildLine
1-800-932-0313

www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis

Mandated Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse

Knowing Your Role in the Protection of Children

CHILD ABUSE CATEGORIES IN PENNSYLVANIA

The term child abuse means intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing any of the following through an act or failure to act:

Bodily Injury: May cause substantial pain or impair a child's physical condition. Must be within two years to be required to report.

Fabricating, Exaggerating or Inducing a Medical Symptom or Disease: When an individual makes up, fakes, or causes an illness to a child that result in harmful or unnecessary medical treatment. Must be within two years to be required to report.

Serious Mental Injury: Verbal or emotional abuse that causes or substantially contributes to the child being rendered chronically and severely anxious, depressed or fearing for their safety. Does not need to be recent to be required to report.

Sexual Abuse or Exploitation: Engaging in any sexually explicit conduct with a child (touching and non-touching behaviors). Does not need to be recent to be required to report.

Likelihood of Bodily Injury & Sexual Abuse or Exploitation: Situations where bodily injury or sexual abuse or exploitation has not occurred but was ready to take place. Must be within two years to be required to report.

Serious Physical Neglect: Endangering a child's life or health, threatening a child's well-being, causing bodily injury or impairing a child's health, development, or functioning (can be a single egregious event). Does not need to be recent to be required to report.

Specific Recent Acts of Child Abuse: Kicking, biting, throwing, burning, stabbing or cutting a child in a manner that endangers the child, unreasonably restraining or confining a child, forcefully shaking, slapping or otherwise striking a child under one year of age, interfering with the breathing of a child, causing a child to be present at a location where methamphetamine is being manufactured & law enforcement is investigating, leaving a child unsupervised with a sexually violent predator, a sexually violent delinquent child, or a sexual offender subject to registration (other than the child's parent). This is when the adult "knows or should have reasonably known" this information.

Death of a Child: Causing the death of a child

Human Trafficking: Engaging a child in a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking.

MAKING A REPORT

You are a Mandated Reporter



ANY of the following occur:

- 1.) You come into contact with a child through your professional role or through a regularly scheduled program;
- 2.) You are responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of a child;
- 3.) A person makes a specific disclosure to you that an identifiable child is the victim of child abuse;
- 4.) A person 14 years of age or older makes a specific disclosure to you that they have committed child abuse.



You have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse

Only minimal facts are needed & first-hand observation of abuse is not required.

Remember, abuse does not need to be disclosed or investigated. You are required to report when you have a suspicion of abuse or neglect.



Make an oral report to

ChildLine 1-800-932-0313 or electronically to www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis



Immediately after making the report, notify the person in charge of the organization or the designee (unless they are the person allegedly committing the abuse).



If an oral report to ChildLine is made, complete a written CY-47 form and send to the local Child Protective Services agency within 48 hours.



- **ChildLine:** The Pennsylvania child abuse reporting hotline **1-800-932-0313** or www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis is available to take reports of suspected child abuse or neglect 24 hours a day.

- **Child Welfare Information Gateway:** For resources and information on child abuse laws in other states, visit www.childwelfare.gov

- **Keep Kids Safe PA:** For information on training, clearances and general information related to child protection, visit www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov

- **Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR):** To find information and local rape crisis centers in Pennsylvania, visit www.pcar.org or call 1-888-772-PCAR (7227).

TIPS FOR RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES OF CHILD ABUSE

If a child discloses abuse to you, it is important to handle the disclosure in a way that creates a supportive environment for the child.

*Stay calm...I'm happy to help you.
Support...I'm sorry this happened to you.
Affirm...You did the right thing by telling me.
Believe...It's not your fault, I believe you.
Empower...You have the right to be safe.
Report...We need to tell others about this to make sure you are safe.*

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