

MICHIGAN CHILD PROTECTION LAW

MCL 722.621

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MANDATORY Reporters

- ▣ School Administrators
- ▣ School Counselor
- ▣ School Teacher
- ▣ Any professional staff person who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect shall be responsible for reporting
- ▣ Also, any person who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect may report

MANDATORY REPORTERS

- ▣ A physician, dentist, physician's assistant, registered dental hygienist, medical examiner, nurse,
- ▣ person licensed to provide emergency medical care, audiologist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, licensed professional counselor, social worker, licensed master's social worker, licensed bachelor's social worker, registered social service technician, social service technician, a person employed in a professional capacity in any office of the friend of the court, school administrator, school counselor or teacher, law enforcement officer, member of the clergy, regulated child care provider, or any employee of an organization or entity that, as a result of federal funding statutes, regulations, or contracts would be prohibited from reporting in the absence of a state mandate or court order (e.g., domestic violence providers). The list also includes specific DHS personnel:
- ▣ eligibility specialist, Family Independence manager, Family Independence specialist, social services specialist, social work specialist, social work specialist manager and welfare services specialist.

CHILD ABUSE

MCL 722.622 (2)(f)

- ▣ Harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare
- ▣ Through non accidental physical or mental injury
- ▣ Sexual abuse-sexual exploitation-or maltreatment
- ▣ By a parent-legal guardian-or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare or by a teacher, a teachers aid ,or a member of the clergy

CHILD NEGLECT

MCL 722.622(2)(j)

- ▣ By a parent-legal guardian-or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare or by a teacher, a teachers aid ,or a member of the clergy
- ▣ Failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care
- ▣ Placing by the parent legal guardian, or other responsible for the child at unreasonable risk to the child's health or welfare or intervening to eliminate risk when able to do so or have knowledge of the risk

SEXUAL ABUSE

MCL 750.520 a

- ▣ Engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration as defined by law

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

MCL750.145 c

- ▣ Allowing permitting or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution...allowing permitting or encouraging or engaging in photographing, filming , or depicting of a child engaged in a sexual act as defined by law

REPORTING INFORMATION

- ▣ **Verbal Report:**
 - Any day /Any Time
 - 855-444-3911

- ▣ **WRITTEN REPORT**
 - Within 72Hours
 - Form DHS -3200

- ▣ If the reporting person is a staff member filing the written report, the reporting person shall notify the person in charge of the building that a report has been made, and shall make a copy of the written report available to the person in charge of the school

COOPERATING WITH THE INVESTIGATION

- ▣ MCL 722.628
- ▣ A school or other institution shall cooperate with the department during an investigation of a report of child abuse or child neglect. Cooperation includes allowing access to the child without parental consent if access is determined by the department to be necessary to complete the investigation or to prevent child abuse or child neglect of the child. The department shall notify the person responsible for the child's health or welfare about the department's contact with the child at the time or as soon afterward as the person can be reached. The department may delay the notice if the notice would compromise the safety of the child or child's siblings or the integrity of the investigation, but only for the time 1 of those conditions exists.

- ▣ (9) If the department has contact with a child in a school, all of the following apply:
- ▣ (a) Before contact with the child, the department investigator shall review with the designated school staff person the department's responsibilities under this act and the investigation procedure.
- ▣ (b) After contact with the child, the department investigator shall meet with the designated school staff person and the child about the response the department will take as a result of contact with the child. The department may also meet with the designated school staff person without the child present and share additional information the investigator determines may be shared subject to the confidentiality provisions of this act.

IMMUNITY

- ▣ A person acting in good faith who makes a report , cooperates in an investigation, or assists in any requirement of the law, is immune from civil or criminal liability for acts done according to the Act.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE

- ▣ There are often certain recognizable physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse or neglect. The following signs, by themselves, may not be conclusive evidence of a problem, but serve as indicators of the possibility that a problem exists. **Signs of Physical Abuse**
- ▣ Bruising, welts or burns that cannot be sufficiently explained; particularly bruises on the face, lips, and mouth of infants or on several surface planes at the same time;
- ▣ Withdrawn, fearful or extreme behavior;
- ▣ Clusters of bruises, welts or burns, indicating repeated contact with a hand or instrument;
- ▣ Burns that are insufficiently explained; for example, cigarette burns; and
- ▣ Injuries on children where children don't usually get injured (e.g., the torso, back neck buttocks, or thighs).
- ▣ **Signs of Sexual Abuse**
- ▣ Difficulty walking or sitting;
- ▣ Pain or itching in the genital area;
- ▣ Torn, stained or bloody underclothing;
- ▣ Frequent complaints of stomachaches or headaches;
- ▣ Venereal disease;
- ▣ Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia;
- ▣ Feeling threatened by physical contact;
- ▣ Inappropriate sex play or premature understanding of sex; and
- ▣ Frequent urinary or yeast infections.
- ▣ **Signs of Emotional Injury**
- ▣ Speech disorders;

- ▣ Inability to play as most children do;
- ▣ Sleeping problems;
- ▣ Anti-social behavior or behavioral extremes; and
- ▣ Delays in emotional and intellectual growth.
- ▣ **Signs of Neglect**
- ▣ Lack of medical or dental care;
- ▣ Chronically dirty or unbathed;
- ▣ Lack of adequate school attendance;
- ▣ Lack of supervision; for example young children left unattended or with other children too young to protect or care for them;
- ▣ Lack of proper nutrition;
- ▣ Lack of adequate shelter;
- ▣ Self-destructive feelings or behavior; and
- ▣ Alcohol or drug abuse.