

Child Abuse & Neglect Mandated Reporter Guidelines for School Volunteers (SB848)



FUSD

FONTANA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Training Objectives

- Understand what a mandated reporter is
- Recognize signs of abuse and neglect
- Know what reasonable suspicion means
- Learn How and When to make a report



District Volunteers are Mandated Reporters (SB848)

- Definition: A mandated reporter is a person legally required to report suspected abuse. Effective January 1st, 2026 , this applies to certain school volunteers under SB848.
- When acting in a Volunteer role, reporting is not optional, the law takes this responsibility seriously.
- Reporting suspected abuse is not only part of your responsibilities as a volunteer it is the law.
- Failing to report suspected child abuse can create a liability for both the District and yourself.
- School District Volunteers should keep their eyes and ears open to protect children. It is our duty to protect the children and **keep kids safe**.

California Senate Bill 848

California Penal Code Section 11165.7



What is Reportable?

If you reasonably suspect any of the following, based on observation or disclosure, **REPORT IT!**

- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Activity between a minor and an adult
- Unjustified punishment
- Unlawful corporal punishment
- Willful cruelty

WHEN IN DOUBT REPORT IT OUT!



When & How to Report

- Immediately, or as soon as possible. DO NOT WAIT overnight or over the course of a weekend, etc.
- By Phone: **(800) 827-8724** Child Protective Services (CPS) or the Fontana City or San Bernardino County Police Department.
- If a time sensitive crime such as an assault or rape has been committed, call city police or county sheriff department immediately.
(A written follow up report must be transmitted to appropriate agency within 36 hours of the telephone report) *CA Penal Code 11165.9*

NOTE: Telling school staff, school police, or anyone else DOES NOT satisfy your obligation to report! You must report suspected abuse to the proper entity.



Where To Find the Reporting Form

- A Site Counselor or Administrator can help you find the form
- You will need the following information:
 - Your Name
 - Child's name, location, school and grade level
 - Involved parties
 - What happened and Why the concern?
 - Always keep record of date, time and who you spoke with when filing,
 - The District form will help you track this important proof that you reported.
- Once you have make the report to Child Protective Services, follow up with local law enforcement.



Keep it Confidential

- This information is confidential!
- It may be shared only with your School Site Administrator and local law enforcement.
- Should the abuse involve a staff member the Site Administrator will notify Human Resources immediately.
- **Do not investigate or share information with others outside of the entities listed above.**

Additional information received after your initial report to CPS or law enforcement, **MUST** be reported!



Mandated Reporter Protections

- **CONFIDENTIALITY:** Your identity will be kept confidential in most cases. However, know that if the case is criminally prosecuted, your identity could be disclosed. Your identity may also be revealed through a public request.
- **IMMUNITY:** Mandated reporters have immunity under California State Law from civil and criminal liability for reporting suspected child abuse, unless the report is known to be false.



Protect Yourself from False Accusations

Here are a few tips to help you avoid situations that could lead to fraudulent allegations of inappropriate conduct:

- Avoid child contact that involves hugging, touching or grabbing
- When privacy with children is necessary, leave the doors and windows open when possible
- Have another adult present when possible
- Stay in areas where you are visible to others in your interactions with students



Consequences For Not Reporting

- A mandated reporter who knowingly and willfully fails to report is guilty of a misdemeanor
 - Punishable by up to 6 months in jail
 - Fine of \$1,000 or both CA Penal Code 11166[c]
- Other possible implications:
 - Volunteer privileges may be revoked.
 - Civil lawsuit



Resources

- California Department of Education: [Child Abuse Identification & Reporting Guidelines](#)
- Child Welfare Information Gateway: [Mandated Reporting | Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
- Fontana Unified School District Child Abuse and Prevention Policy #5141.4BP and 5141.4AR. Include reporting guidelines and contact numbers: [FUSD Reporting Guidelines](#)

WHEN IN DOUBT REPORT IT OUT!

Remember: It is YOUR obligation to NOT ignore child abuse and misconduct



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Click the link or scan the QR Code to complete the required information and obtain a certificate of completion



[Mandated Reporter Training Acknowledgement for Volunteers – Fill out form](#)

