Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting

Definitions

Child abuse or neglect includes the following: (Penal Code 11165.5, 11165.6)

1. A physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person

2. Sexual abuse of a child, including sexual assault or sexual exploitation, as defined in Penal Code 11165.1

3. Neglect of a child as defined in Penal Code 11165.2

4. Willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child as defined in Penal Code 11165.3

5. Unlawful corporal punishment or injury as defined in Penal Code 11165.4

Child abuse or neglect does not include:

1. A mutual affray between minors (Penal Code 11165.6)

2. An injury caused by reasonable and necessary force used by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of employment (Penal Code 11165.5, 11165.6)

3. An injury resulting from the exercise by a teacher, vice principal, principal, or other certificated employee of the same degree of physical control over a student that a parent/guardian would be legally privileged to exercise, not exceeding the amount of physical control reasonably necessary to maintain order, protect property, protect the health and safety of students, or maintain proper and appropriate conditions conducive to learning (Education Code 44807)

4. An injury caused by a district employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to persons or damage to property, for purposes of self-defense, or to obtain weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of a student (Education Code 49001)

5. Physical pain or discomfort caused by athletic competition or other such recreational activity voluntarily engaged in by a student (Education Code 49001)

Additionally, general neglect does not include: (Penal Code 11165.2)

1. A parent/guardian's economic disadvantage

2. A child receiving treatment by spiritual means pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 16509.1, or not receiving specified medical treatment for religious reasons

Mandated reporters include, but are not limited to, Governing Board members; teachers; instructional aides; teacher's aides or assistants; classified employees; certificated pupil personnel employees; administrative officers or supervisors of child attendance; athletic coaches, administrators, and directors; licensees, administrators, and employees of a licensed child day care facility; Head Start program teachers; district police or security officers; licensed nurses or health care providers; and administrators, presenters, and counselors of a child abuse prevention program; and volunteers who are over 18 years of age and who interact with students outside of the immediate supervision and control of the student's parent/guardian or a school employee. (Penal Code 11165.7)

Reasonable suspicion means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate on the person's training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect. However, reasonable suspicion does not require certainty that child abuse or neglect has occurred nor does it require a specific medical indication of child abuse or neglect. (Penal Code 11166)

Reportable Offenses

Using the procedures provided below, a mandated reporter shall make a report whenever the mandated reporter, while acting in a professional capacity or within the scope of employment, has knowledge of or

observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. (Penal Code 11166)

Any mandated reporter who has knowledge of or who reasonably suspects that a child is suffering serious emotional damage or is at a substantial risk of suffering serious emotional damage, based on evidence of severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or untoward aggressive behavior toward self or others, may make a report to the appropriate agency. (Penal Code 11165.9, 11166.05, 11167)

Any district employee who reasonably believes to have observed the commission of a murder, rape, or lewd or lascivious act by use of force, violence, duress, menace, or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury against a victim who is a child under 14 years of age shall notify a peace officer. (Penal Code 152.3)

The fact that a child is experiencing homelessness or is classified as an unaccompanied minor, as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11434a), is not, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect. (Penal Code 11165.15)

Responsibility for Reporting

The reporting duties of mandated reporters are individual and cannot be delegated to another person. (Penal Code 11166)

When two or more mandated reporters jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, the report may be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement and a single report may be made and signed by the selected member of the reporting team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter make the report. (Penal Code 11166)

No supervisor or administrator shall impede or inhibit a mandated reporter from making a report. (Penal Code 11166)

Any person not identified as a mandated reporter who has knowledge of or observes a child whom the person knows or reasonably suspects has been a victim of child abuse or neglect may report the known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate agency. (Penal Code 11166)

Reporting Procedures

1. Initial Telephone Report

   Immediately or as soon as practicable after knowing or observing suspected child abuse or neglect, a mandated reporter shall make an initial report by telephone to any police department (excluding a district police/security department), sheriff's department, county probation department if designated by the county to receive such reports, or county welfare department. (Penal Code 11165.9, 11166)

   Such reports shall be made to the following agency(ies):

   Monterey County Department of Social Services
   1000 S Main St., Suite 205
   Salinas, CA 93901
   (831) 755-4475

   When the initial telephone report is made, the mandated reporter shall note the name of the official contacted, the date and time contacted, and any instructions or advice received.

2. Written Report

   Within 36 hours of knowing or observing the information concerning the incident, the mandated reporter shall prepare and either send, fax, or electronically transmit to the appropriate agency a written follow-up report, which includes a completed California Department of Justice (DOJ) form (BCIA 8572). (Penal Code 11166, 11168)

   The DOJ form may be obtained from the district office or other appropriate agencies, such as the

police department, sheriff's department, or county probation or welfare department.

Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall include, if known: (Penal Code 11167)

a. The name, business address, and telephone number of the person making the report and the capacity that makes the person a mandated reporter

b. The child's name and address, present location, and, where applicable, school, grade, and class

c. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the child's parents/guardians

d. The name, address, telephone number, and other relevant personal information about the person(s) who might have abused or neglected the child

e. The information that gave rise to the reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect and the source(s) of that information

The mandated reporter shall make a report even if some of this information is not known or is uncertain to the mandated reporter. (Penal Code 11167)

The mandated reporter may give to an investigator from an agency investigating the case, including a licensing agency, any information relevant to an incident of child abuse or neglect or to a report made for serious emotional damage pursuant to Penal Code 11166.05. (Penal Code 11167)

3. Internal Reporting

The mandated reporter shall not be required to disclose the mandated reporter's identity to a supervisor, the principal, or the Superintendent or designee. (Penal Code 11166)

However, employees reporting child abuse or neglect to an appropriate agency are encouraged, but not required, to notify the principal as soon as possible after the initial telephone report to the appropriate agency. When so notified, the principal shall inform the Superintendent or designee.

The principal so notified shall provide the mandated reporter with any assistance necessary to ensure that reporting procedures are carried out in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. At the mandated reporter's request, the principal may assist in completing and filing the necessary forms.

Reporting the information to an employer, supervisor, principal, school counselor, co-worker, or other person shall not be a substitute for making a mandated report to the appropriate agency. (Penal Code 11166)

Training

Within the first six weeks of each school year, or within the first six weeks of employment if hired during the school year, or within six weeks of commencing volunteer services, the Superintendent or designee shall provide training on mandated reporting requirements to district employees, persons working on their behalf, and volunteers who are mandated reporters. (Education Code 44691; Penal Code 11165.7)

The Superintendent or designee shall use the online training module provided by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). (Education Code 44691)

The training shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, training in identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Additionally, the training shall include information that failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect as required by law is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment and/or a fine as specified. (Education Code 44691; Penal Code 11165.7)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall provide annual training on the prevention of abuse, including sexual abuse and assault, of children on district property, by district staff and volunteers, or in district-sponsored programs.(Education Code 44691)

The Superintendent or designee shall obtain and retain proof of each mandated reporter's completion of

the training. (Education Code 44691)

A person who has completed the mandated reporter training provided by CDSS and received a certificate of completion within the previous 12 months shall be deemed to satisfy the mandated reporter training requirements specified in Education Code 44691.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically provide continuing education that enables district personnel to learn about new developments in the understanding of abuse, including sexual abuse and assault, and human trafficking, and current prevention efforts and methods. Such education may include early identification of abuse, including sexual abuse, and human trafficking of students and minors. (Education Code 51950)

Victim Interviews by Social Services

Whenever CDSS or another government agency is investigating suspected child abuse or neglect that occurred within the child's home or out-of-home care facility, the student may be interviewed by an agency representative during school hours, on school premises. The Superintendent or designee shall give the student the choice of being interviewed in private or in the presence of any adult school employee or volunteer aide selected by the student. (Penal Code 11174.3)

A staff member or volunteer aide selected by a child may decline to be present at the interview. If the selected person accepts, the principal or designee shall inform the person of the following requirements prior to the interview: (Penal Code 11174.3)

1. The purpose of the selected person's presence at the interview is to lend support to the child and enable the child to be as comfortable as possible

2. The selected person shall not participate in the interview

3. The selected person shall not discuss the facts or circumstances of the case with the child

4. The selected person is subject to the confidentiality requirements of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, a violation of which is punishable as specified in Penal Code 11167.5

If a staff member agrees to be present, the interview shall be held at a time during school hours when it

does not involve an expense to the school. (Penal Code 11174.3)

Release of Child to Peace Officer

When a child is released to a peace officer and taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse or neglect, the Superintendent or designee and/or principal shall not notify the parent/guardian, but rather shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the child's parent/guardian. (Education Code 48906)

Parent/Guardian Complaints

Upon request, the Superintendent or designee shall provide parents/guardians with procedures for reporting suspected child abuse occurring on district property to appropriate agencies. For parents/guardians whose primary language is not English, such procedures shall be in their primary language and, when communicating orally regarding those guidelines and/or procedures, an interpreter shall be provided.

To file a complaint against a district employee or other person suspected of child abuse or neglect on district property, parents/guardians may file a report by telephone, in person, or in writing with any appropriate agency identified above under "Reporting Procedures." If a parent/guardian makes a complaint about an employee to any other employee, the employee receiving the information shall notify the parent/guardian of procedures for filing a complaint with the appropriate agency. Additionally, the employee shall ~~also~~ file a report when obligated to do so pursuant to Penal Code 11166 using the procedures described above for mandated reporters.

Additionally, if the child is enrolled in special education, a separate complaint may be filed with the California Department of Education pursuant to 5 CCR 3200-3205.

Notifications

The Superintendent or designee shall provide to all new employees and volunteers who are mandated reporters a statement that informs them of their status as mandated reporters, their reporting obligations under Penal Code 11166, and their confidentiality rights under Penal Code 11167. Additionally, the district shall provide these new employees with a copy of Penal Code 11165.7, 11166, and 11167. (Penal Code 11165.7, 11166.5)

Before beginning employment or volunteering, any person who will be a mandated reporter by virtue of the person's position shall sign a statement indicating knowledge of the reporting obligations under Penal Code 11166 and compliance with such provisions. The signed statement shall be retained by the Superintendent or designee. (Penal Code 11166.5)

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee also shall notify all employees that:

1. A mandated reporter who reports a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect shall not be held civilly or criminally liable for making a report and this immunity shall apply even if the mandated reporter acquired the knowledge or reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect outside of the mandated reporter's professional capacity or outside the scope of employment (Penal Code 11172)

   Any other person making a report shall not incur civil or criminal liability unless it can be proven that the person knowingly made a false report or made a report with reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the report. (Penal Code 11172)

2. If a mandated reporter fails to timely report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, the mandated reporter may be guilty of a crime punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment (Penal Code 11166)

No employee shall be subject to any sanction by the district for making a report unless it can be shown that the employee knowingly made a false report or made a report with reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the report. (Penal Code 11166, 11172)

State	Description

5 CCR 3200-3205	Special education compliance complaints
Code of Civil Procedure 340.1	Damages suffered as result of childhood sexual abuse
Ed. Code 215.5	Student identification cards; inclusion of safety hotlines
Ed. Code 32280-32289.5	School safety plans
Ed. Code 33133.5	Posters of telephone number for students to report child abuse or neglect
Ed. Code 33195	Heritage schools; mandated reporters
Ed. Code 33308.1	Guidelines on procedure for filing child abuse complaints
Ed. Code 33546.2	Health framework for California public schools; sextortion
Ed. Code 44252	Teacher credentialing

Ed. Code 44691	Staff development in the detection of child abuse and neglect
Ed. Code 44807	Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students
Ed. Code 48906	Notification when student released to peace officer
Ed. Code 48987	Dissemination of reporting guidelines to parents/guardians
Ed. Code 49001	Prohibition of corporal punishment
Ed. Code 51220.5	Parent/guardian skills education
Ed. Code 51900.6	Sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention instruction
Ed. Code 51950	Abuse, sexual abuse, and human trafficking prevention education
Pen. Code 11164-11174.3	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

Pen. Code 152.3	Duty to report murder, rape, or lewd or lascivious act
Pen. Code 273a	Willfully causing unjustifiable pain or mental suffering of child; endangering life or health
Pen. Code 286	Crime of sodomy
Pen. Code 288	Crime of oral copulation
Pen. Code 288	Definition of lewd or lascivious act requiring reporting
Pen. Code 289	Crime of sexual penetration
Pen. Code 311-312.7	Obscene matter
Pen. Code 801.8	Failure to report an incident known or reasonably suspected by a mandated reporter to be sexual assault, child abuse, or severe neglect
W&I Code 15630-15637	Dependent adult abuse reporting

W&I Code 16509.1	Treatment of children by spiritual means through prayer; neglect