

Mandated Reports Of Abuse Of Children

If you reasonably suspect that a child has been the victim of abuse, exploitation or neglect, incidents such as these require reporting to the proper authority in addition to reporting them to the regional center. This responsibility is called being a **MANDATED REPORTER**.

Penal Code 11164-11174.3 is known as the "Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act" which establishes the role and definition of a mandated reporter.

*Any **mandated reporter** who, in his or her professional capacity, or within the scope of his or her employment, has observed or has knowledge of an incident that reasonably appears to be sexual assault, neglect*, willful harm**, endangerment, corporal punishment, physical abuse, or financial abuset, or is told by a child that he or she has experienced behavior constituting abuse or neglect, or reasonably suspects abuse or neglect shall report the known or suspected instance of abuse by telephone immediately or as soon as practically possible, and by written report sent within two working days...(Please refer to SIR Flow Chart)*

Penal Code 11166 defines "reasonable suspicion" as: An objectively reasonable suspicion that a person would entertain, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate upon his or her training and experience to suspect abuse or neglect.

"Mandated reporter" is: *a teacher, instructional aide, teacher's assistant, employee of a public school, administrative officer or supervisor of child welfare and attendance, certified pupil personnel employee, administrator of a day camp, any administrator/ employee of a youth center/program/organization, any employee of county office of education whose duties bring them into contact with children, licensee/ administrator/staff of a licensed community care or day care facility, licensing worker or evaluator public assistance worker, employee of a child care institution (foster care, group home, residential care), social workers, probation officers, parole officers, peace officers, employee of school district police or security department, administrator/presenter/counselor in child abuse prevention programs, a district attorney investigator/inspector or child support agency caseworker (unless court appointed to represent a minor), firefighter, physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, psychologist, dentist, resident, intern, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, dental hygienist, optometrist, licensed or unlicensed marriage/family therapist (MFT), MFT trainee, clinical social worker, emergency medical technician, paramedic, public health employee who treats a minor for venereal disease or any other condition coroner, medical examiner, commercial film and photographic print processor, child visitation monitor, animal control officer, humane society officer, clergy member, any custodian of records of a clergy member, any employee of the police department/ county sheriff's department/county probation department/county welfare department, employee/volunteer of a Court Appointed Special Advocate program, custodial officer, and any person providing services to a minor*

* As used in this article, "neglect" means the negligent treatment or the maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare. The term includes both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person. [P.C. 11165.2]

** As used in this article, "the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child," means a situation in which any person willfully causes or permits any child to suffer, or inflicts thereon, unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or having the care or custody of any child, willfully causes or permits the person or health of the child to be placed in a situation in which his or her person or health is endangered. [P.C. 11165.3]