

The Arkansas Mandated Reporter course has provided me with important knowledge that I will be able to apply throughout my future professional practice. One of the most important things I learned is the responsibility professionals have to recognize and report suspected child abuse or neglect. The course helped me better understand the signs and situations that may indicate a child is experiencing abuse or neglect, as well as the importance of taking concerns seriously.

In my future professional practice, I will use what I learned from this course to be more aware of the physical, emotional, and behavioral signs that could indicate a child is in an unsafe situation. I understand that it is not my responsibility to investigate or prove that abuse has occurred. It not my responsibility to make decisions or consult, even if there is strong support that a parent or guardian is not in a capacity to give information accurately. Instead, my responsibility as a mandated reporter is to recognize reasonable concerns and follow the proper reporting procedures. This knowledge will help me respond appropriately and protect the well-being of children who may be unable to speak up for themselves.

The course also reinforced the importance of maintaining professionalism, confidentiality, and objectivity when handling concerns involving a child. I will carry this knowledge with me as I work with children, families, coworkers, and other professionals. Overall, the Arkansas Mandated Reporter course has prepared me to take my professional responsibilities seriously and has given me the confidence to respond appropriately if I ever encounter a situation involving suspected abuse or neglect.