

ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL ARE MANDATED REPORTERS

Mandated reporters are required to report suspected child maltreatment immediately when they have “reasonable cause to believe” that a child known to them in their professional or official capacity may be an abused or neglected child”. (325 ILCS 5/4)

Commonly recognized forms of child abuse or maltreatment:

Physical

Sexual

Neglect

Human Trafficking

<https://mr.dcfstraining.org/public/pdf/en/Signs-of-Child-Abuse-Neglect.pdf>

A Child is “abused” if suspected abuser is:

- Parent, a foster parent, guardian, or immediate family member.
- A person living in the same home (at least 4 years older than the child)
- A paramour (parent’s significant other).
- A person responsible for the child’s welfare.

And you suspect:

- Non-accidental physical or emotional injury
- Substantial risk of physical injury
- Excessive corporal punishment
- Sexual conduct with the child
- Sexual exploitation

Certain Family Circumstances Are Not Considered Abusive Or Neglectful

- Spanking that is not "excessive corporal punishment" because it does not leave marks or injuries
- A dirty home that is not hazardous
- An older child left home alone who is capable of caring for himself
- A child left in the care of an adult relative who has often cared for the child in the past, even if the parent has not made an arrangement for child care.
- A child who a licensed physician reasonably believes is 30 days old or less at the time the child is initially relinquished to a safe haven. For more information, refer to:



<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1459&ChapAct=325%26nbsp%3BILCS%26nbsp%3B2%2F&ChapterID=32&ChapterName=CHILDREN&ActName=Abandoned+Newborn+Infant+Protection+Act%2E>

<https://saveabandonedbabies.org/>

A child is “neglected” when the person responsible for the child’s welfare:

- Fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or needed medical treatment
- Or provides inadequate supervision of the child

In considering whether there is “reasonable cause” to make a report,

Mandated reporters **do not** investigate, but enough information is needed to determine if it should be reported.

1. *Did you **observe evidence** that some damage was done to the child?
2. *What **communication has the child** provided? Is the information consistent and plausible with what you have observed?
3. *If the **explanation comes from someone other than the child**, how credible and/or complete is the information?
4. *Have there been **past incidents** which, in retrospect, may have been suspicious?

Discuss with Principal, Social Worker, and/or Psychologist

◎ If you are not sure what you have witnessed or heard is abuse, always call and ask.



“as much as 70 percent of child abuse goes unreported, and a child tells an average of 7 adults that they are being abused or neglected before a report is made”

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/safekids/reporting/Pages/index.aspx#:~:text=Call%20the%2024%2Dhour%20Child,harm%20by%20abuse%20or%20neglect.>

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT **REPORTING PROCEDURES**

Your Social Worker or Psychologist can assist you through this process, but if they are not available, your report cannot be delayed.

1. Online reporting
2. Child Abuse Hotline

Child Abuse Hotline Report

If you believe the abuse or neglect you are reporting **requires immediate action, you MUST call the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-25-ABUSE (800-25-ABUSE) to make your report.** Circumstances to consider.....

- Current injuries to the child
- Immediate need for medical treatment (including a child who is suicidal)
- Sexual abuse where the involved adult has or will have access to a child within the next 24 hours
- A child is currently afraid to go home
- A child is currently in protective custody of police or medical personnel
- A child death

MAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PRIOR TO CALLING:

1. The child's name, address and phone number
2. The age and gender of the child
3. Where is the child at the time of the report
4. Parent's name, address and phone number
5. Name of the abuser
6. Type of abuse (be as specific about what you have observed as possible). What have you seen, what are your suspicions?
7. Are there other siblings or other children living in the home? If so, their name(s), gender(s) and age(s).
8. School child attends
9. Language barriers, if any
10. Your questions regarding the situation

CANTS 5 form to help guide your conversation with the intake worker

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/notices/Documents/cants5.pdf>

DOCUMENT DETAILS OF YOUR PHONE CONVERSATION

1. The date you reported.
2. The person you spoke to.
3. Identification number of Hotline Worker
4. What was said to you by Worker.

Keep this information for your records as documentation of your report.

*If you are not comfortable with the conversation/responses with the hotline worker, you can always ask to speak to a supervisor.

After you make a report over the hotline, the worker will let you know if they plan on investigating your report. Mandated reporters are required to complete the CANTS 5 form to confirm their reports of child abuse/neglect:

<https://dcfs.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dcfs/documents/about-us/policy-rules-and-forms/documents/cants/cants-5.pdf>

Email it within 48 hours of your verbal report to DCFS:

DCFS.MandatedReporterForm@illinois.gov

Online Reporting

The Online Reporting System is to be used for non-life threatening and non-emergency incidents of abuse or neglect of a child.

<https://dcfsonlinereporting.dcfs.illinois.gov/>

“Indicated” letters will be placed in the student’s temporary records (Section 8.6 of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act).

If an “Indicated” report is overturned in court, then the report will need to be shredded (the school will be informed).

If “unfounded” (not enough credible evidence), the report for physical and sexual abuse is preserved for 3 years. All other reports are kept for 1 year.

Resources

Signs of child abuse and neglect

<https://mr.dcfstraining.org/public/pdf/en/Signs-of-Child-Abuse-Neglect.pdf>

Training module for mandated reporters

<https://mr.dcfstraining.org/Home.action>

Definitions

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/define.pdf>

Mythbusters

<https://mr.dcfstraining.org/public/pdf/en/Myth-Busters-List.pdf>

Illinois Department of Child & Family Services(DCFS)

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/safekids/reporting/Pages/index.aspx#:~:text=Call%20the%2024%2Dhour%20Child,harm%20by%20abuse%20or%20neglect.>

Finally...

Whenever in doubt, always contact school social worker, psychologist, or administrator.

Let's plan for a safe and successful school year!!

