



Child Abuse and the Role of the Mandated reporter

“ It is not just an individual concern;
it is also a community concern.”

Activity: Dyad

Discuss with a partner
how do you feel about
reporting child abuse?
Why?





Mandated Reporting

- Requirement to report any suspected abuse to the proper authorities
- Requirement for those working with children and their families
- Report in good faith (makes you immune from legal action)



Mandated Reporting

Serve as a defense by serving

1. as a referral agency to protective services
2. as an educational institution offering parent development opportunities
3. as a support system to families
4. as a collaborator with other agencies who make up the total protection system



California Child Abuse Reporting Law: P.C. 11165

What are you required to report?

- Any suspected abuse in the home or out of the home – whether it is physical, severe/general neglect, unjustified mental suffering, willful cruelty or punishment, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation
- The criteria for reporting is observation, reasonable suspicion, knowledge of abuse

California Child Abuse Reporting Law: P.C. 11165

Why do you report?

- Child abuse escalates in frequency or severity.
- You are required to report to protect the child, comply with the law and get help for the family.

California Child Abuse Reporting Law: P.C. 11165

Who reports?

- All professionals who in the course of their work come in contact with children and families (includes child care providers, social workers, medical and police personnel)
- All citizens who suspect or know of abuse.

California Child Abuse Reporting Law: P.C. 11165

To whom do you report?

- A report is made to Children Protective Services, Department of Family and Children's Services or the local police agency

- To Report:
 - In San Jose 408/299-2071
 - Gilroy/Morgan Hill 408/683-0601
 - Palo Alto 650/493-1186
 - Department of Family and Children's Services 408/441-5383
for forms

California Child Abuse Reporting Law: P.C. 11165

When do you report?

- A report must be made immediately upon suspicion or knowledge.

California Child Abuse Reporting Law: P.C. 11165

Other considerations

1. Report is confidential and you are immune from liability or prosecution as a mandated reporter.
2. A state fund provides reimbursement for legal fees up to \$50,000 if the mandated reporter is sued
3. You can be fined \$1,000 or six month in jail for failing to report.
4. Must comply with reporting law (sign a form with employer)

After reviewing the role of the
mandated reporter...Dyad

How do you feel about reporting child abuse
now?

What can you do to STOP child abuse?

- Advocate
- Develop policies to protect the right and safety of children
- If you suspect... **Call 299-2091**
Children's Protective Service

