



Mandated Reporting Minor

Who do I contact if I suspect child abuse?

Immediate danger

Call 911. If you know or suspect that a child is in immediate danger (such as a recent sexual assault or a serious physical assault) or the child is abandoned, contact your local law enforcement agency right away.

No immediate danger

To report suspected abuse or neglect of a child, contact the Common Entry Point within the county the client resides in. The phone number can be found in the Clinical Training Binder under the tab Mandated Reporting. The identity of the reporter will be treated as confidential information.

- Verbal reports must be made within 24 hours of the reporters awareness of the abuse or neglect.
- Written reports must be submitted within 72 hours (weekends and holidays are excluded).

Contact Communities of Care within 24 hours of the event to file a report. This is in addition to reporting through the common entry point.

- Fill out an incident report and fax to our office. If the fax is not working please call the office at 651-482-0549 to leave a message for us to begin the follow up process.
- Include the same information as below.

If you are unsure whether you should make a report, call your county social service agency's child protection unit. The child protection staff will help you decide if a report should be made based on the information you provide.

What information do I need to report?

- Report the child's name, age, and address
- Reason for the report
- Any other pertinent information you have.
- If known, report the alleged offender and relationship with the child, parents' names and address, and telephone number



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Who must report?

Minnesota law mandates that any person whose job involves working professionally with children and who has reason to believe that a child is being neglected or physically or sexually abused shall immediately report the suspected incident to local police or child protection agency.

Minnesota laws provide mandated reporters with great personal responsibility.

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, you cannot shift the responsibility of reporting to a supervisor, or to someone else in the office, school, clinic or licensed facility. You alone are required to make the report to the responsible agency.

The law requires mandated reporters to make a report if they know of or have reason to believe a child is being neglected or abused or has been neglected or abused within the preceding three years.

A report to authorities made in good faith protects them reporters from liability.

Can I get into trouble for making a report?

If you are required to report known or suspected abuse or neglect and fail to do so, you are guilty of a misdemeanor.

What is physical abuse?

Physical abuse is when a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care hurts a child, causing any physical injury, other than by accident. This includes any physical injury to a child that cannot reasonably be explained by the person responsible for the child's care, based on a history of injuries.

The following are conditions of physical abuse that should be reported:

- Child has suffered an injury that appears to be non-accidental in nature
- Child has suffered an injury and the parent or guardian seems unconcerned, denies anything is wrong, or gives unlikely or contradictory explanations
- There is a strong possibility that the child is in immediate danger of physical injury based on the likelihood that excessive force was used (i.e. choking, punching, shaking, biting, tying, caging)



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What is child neglect?

Harm to a child that results from what a parent or caretaker DOES NOT do is called child neglect. It differs from child abuse, though both abuse and neglect may cause harm.

Child neglect is continued failure by parents or caretakers to provide a child with needed care and protection. Examples of what may constitute a report of child neglect are:

- Inadequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care
- Abandonment
- Exposure to threatening or endangering conditions
- Educational neglect
- Prenatal exposure to substance abuse.
- Inadequate supervision.
- Physical injury resulting from hazardous conditions uncorrected by parent or guardian
- Injury or risk of injury due to domestic violence
- Exposure to or involvement in criminal activities

What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse within the child protection system is defined as sexual conduct with a child by a person responsible for the child's care, or by a person who has a significant relationship to the child.

What is emotional abuse?

Emotional abuse or maltreatment occurs when a person responsible for the child's care is consistently or deliberately inflicting mental harm on a child by a person responsible for the child's care. The treatment has an observable, sustained, adverse effect on the child's physical, mental or emotional development.

Reference

Anoka County, (2012). *Frequently asked questions about reporting child abuse*

Retrieved from website: http://ww2.anokacounty.us/v3_child-protection/faqs.aspx

Minnesota Department of Human Services. Updates as of December 2016 from MN Statute 626.556