



Cecil County
Department of
Social Services

Mandated Reporter Training





Who is a Mandated Reporter



The following are mandated reporters :

- Police Officers
- Educators
- Human Service Workers
- Health Practitioners

If you have REASON TO BELIEVE a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect,
you are required BY LAW to make a report.

Reporting does NOT require PROOF that child abuse or neglect has occurred.
Incidents are to be reported as soon as they are suspected.



What is Child Abuse and Neglect



Child abuse and neglect are caused by the act of a parent or other individual who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by a household or family member

Family Member: a relative of the minor child by blood, adoption, or marriage.

Household Member: a person who lives with or has a regular presence in the home of the minor at the time of the alleged abuse.

Caretaker: a person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for the supervision of a minor (this includes school personnel, daycare providers, youth group leaders, pimps specifically for domestic minor sex trafficking, etc.).

Child Physical Abuse

Physical injury (not necessarily visible) of a child under circumstances that indicate a child's health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed.

Indicators of Physical Abuse:

- Has frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts or explanation is incongruent to the injury
 - Have injuries that appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or a belt
 - Attempts to hide body parts that previously were exposed without concern (arms, legs, neck, etc.)
 - Has unusual, unexplained burn marks, bite marks, broken bones
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Child Neglect

The failure to give proper care and attention to a child, leaving a child unattended where the child's health or welfare is harmed or a child is placed at substantial risk of harm.

Indicators of Neglect:

- Have untreated illnesses or physical injuries that present a significant risk to the child if left untreated
 - Experiences a lack of adequate or appropriate supervision (taking into account the age and capabilities of the child)
 - Has been abandoned
 - Experiences parental/caretaker substance abuse or use or mental illness that interferes with the ability to provide appropriate care and supervision of the child
 - Experiences deprivation of food
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Unattended vs. Unsupervised

Unattended Child: no caretaker present in the dwelling.

Unsupervised Child: a caretaker is present but not adequately supervising the child or the children are outside of the dwelling with no supervision.

Factors to Consider:

- Gravity and nature of harm or possible harm
- Extent to which parent/caregiver anticipated and managed risk
- Accessibility of parent or other responsible caregiver
- Length of time
- Risks posed by location
- Child's age, maturity, level of responsibility

Mental Injury

Identifiable and substantial impairment of a child's mental or psychological ability to function.

Indicators of Mental Injury:

- Is excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong
 - Demonstrates extremes in behavior (extremely compliant or extremely demanding; extremely passive or extremely aggressive)
 - Does not seem to be attached to the parent or caregiver
 - Demonstrates a noticeable decline in cognitive abilities
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Child Sexual Abuse

Any sexual abuse, meaning an act or acts involving sexual molestation or exploitation, to include sex trafficking, whether physical injuries are sustained or not.

Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse:

- Has a sexually transmitted infection or chronic urinary tract infections
 - Demonstrates sexualized behavior that is not age appropriate and/or is highly overt or repetitive
 - Is withdrawn or isolates self
 - Frequently runs away from home
 - Is abnormally secretive and socially isolated
 - Experiences unexplained painful urination or defecation
 - Has unexplained change in behavior (aggressive, withdrawn, self-destructive)
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Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

The giving or receiving of anything of value to any person in exchange for a sex act performed by a minor child.

Indicators of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking:

- Truancy
 - Excessive tiredness
 - Reference to multiple places traveled within a short timespan
 - Tattoos
 - Dramatic change in appearance
 - Older or adult sexual partners
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When are Mandated Reporters
required to report



Timeframes for Reports

A mandated reporter must make an oral report of suspected child abuse or neglect immediately

Mandated reporters must submit a written report within 48 hours after the contact, examination, attention, or treatment that caused the individual to believe that the child had been abused or neglected



Where to Make a Report and What to Include



Agency Receiving the Reports

The oral report shall be made to the local department or the appropriate law enforcement agency. The written report (180 form) shall be made to the local department, with a copy to the local state's attorney.

Oral Reports to the Department:

410-996-0100 (Option 3)
During the hours of 8am - 5 pm

410-996-5350
During the hours of 5 pm - 8 am and on weekends and Holidays

Written Reports:

Cecil County DSS - Intake Unit
170 East Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921

Cecil County State's Attorney's Office
129 East Main Street
Suite 300
Elkton, MD 21921

Contents of Report

Fam. Law § 5-704

- The name, age, and home address of the child
- The name and home address of the child's parent or other person who is responsible for the child's care
- The whereabouts of the child
- The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect of the child, including any evidence or information available to the reporter concerning possible previous instances of abuse or neglect
- Any other information that might be helpful to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect and the identity of any individual responsible for the abuse or neglect

Notable Information for Mandated Reporters

Once a report has been made, do NOT notify parents or guardians.

Your identity will be kept confidential by the Department unless a court order requires this information to be released (Maryland FLA 5-705).

Very rarely, the Department may contact you and ask you to hold a child. This will ONLY occur if the Department has taken custody of this child. Unless you receive a call indicating this specifically, you must release all children as is typical for them.

Questions?