

CHILD PROTECTION

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OVERVIEW

Child abuse reporting statutes were developed to clarify the process by which children could be protected in cases of maltreatment. The reporting laws create accountability for abusive or neglectful parents or caretakers, who can work with social services to create a safe and nurturing environment for their children and/or who may be criminally prosecuted for their maltreatment of children. They also create accountability for mandated reporters, those persons required to report suspected child abuse, in order to increase protection of children.

Responsibilities of the school district

- AB 1432 (Gatto/2014) added Section 44691 to the CA Education Code to require the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention in the State Department of Social Services, to develop and disseminate information to all school districts, county offices of education, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education, and charter schools, and their school personnel in California, regarding the detection and reporting of child abuse.

(1) annually train, using the online training module provided by the State Department of Social Services, or other training, as specified, employees and persons working on their behalf who are mandated reporters on the mandated reporting requirements, as specified; and

(2) develop a process for all persons required to receive training under the bill to provide proof of completing this training within the first 6 weeks of each school year or within 6 weeks of that person's employment. By imposing these additional duties on local educational agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

- Ensure that reporting, follow-up, and record keeping policies and procedures conform with the law

The online training can be accessed here:

<http://educators.mandatedreporterca.com/default.htm>

Updates & Resources:

<http://www.mandatedreporterca.com/>

Responsibilities of the School Nurse

- Be knowledgeable about state laws and regulations related to child abuse
- Report suspected case(s)
- Participate as part of the school team for reporting suspected cases of child abuse
- Support the child
- Educate staff, students, and parents regarding child abuse
- Make referrals and follow-up as appropriate

Activities of the Paraprofessional

- Report suspected case(s) as a mandated reporter
- Consult with the school nurse when needed

DEFINITIONS

Child abuse: any act of omission or commission that endangers or impairs a child's physical or emotional health and development.

Child abuse is divided into four types -- physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment -- the types are more typically found in combination than alone. A physically abused child for example is often emotionally maltreated as well, and a sexually abused child may be also neglected. Any child at any age may experience any of the types of child abuse.

- Physical abuse: any physical injury inflicted on a child that is not an accident. This can include kicking, hitting, biting, shaking, pinching, pulling hair, slapping, beating, and endangering.
- Physical neglect: the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child. This can include lack of proper supervision, food, clothing, shelter, medical attention, and sanitation.
- Emotional abuse: failure to provide the child with the normal experiences that will make the child feel loved, wanted, and secure. This can include ignoring, unreasonable demands, verbal assaults, unpredictable responses, constant family discord, and double message communications.
- Sexual abuse: sexual assault or exploitation of a child for sexual gratification of an adult/other. This ranges from verbalization to sexual intercourse. Not all sexual assault is violent. "Force" can also be thought of as being tricked, coerced, seduced, or talked into something a person doesn't want to do.

RECOGNIZING CHILD ABUSE

Child:

- Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance
- Withdrawal
- Loss of appetite, eating disorder
- Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen
- Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parents' attention
- Has learning problems that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes; a fall in grades in school
- Lacks adult supervision
- Is overly compliant, an overachiever, or too responsible
- Comes to school early, stays late, and does not want to go home
- Lack of self-confidence; poor relationships with other children

The Parent:

- Shows little concern for the child, rarely responding to the school's requests for information, for conferences, or for home visits
- Denies the existence of -- or blames the child for -- the child's problems in school or at home

- Asks the classroom teacher to use harsh physical discipline if the child misbehaves
- Sees the child entirely bad, worthless, or burdensome
- Demands perfection or a level of physical or academic performance the child cannot achieve; or looks primarily to the child for care, attention, and satisfaction of emotional needs

Definition of Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may be defined as any act which results in non-accidental injury to the child. Exclusions to the reporting law are: (1) reasonable and age appropriate spanking to the buttocks where there is not evidence of serious injury, (2) injuries caused by two children fighting by mutual consent, (3) injuries caused by reasonable or necessary force used by a peace officer to stop a disturbance that is threatening physical injury to someone or damage to property, for purposes of self-defense, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the child, or to apprehend an escapee.

Four characteristics to determine non-accidental injuries:

1. Location of the injury
2. Pattern of the injury
3. Degree or extent of the injury
4. Correlation of the story to the physical injury

Consider the possibility of physical abuse when the child:

- Has unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
- Has fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school
- Seems frightened of the parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home from school
- Shrinks at the approach of adults
- Reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver

Consider the possibility of physical abuse when the parent or other adult caregiver:

- Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for the child's injury
- Describes the child as "evil," or in some other very negative way
- Uses harsh physical discipline with the child
- Has a history of abuse as a child.

Symptoms and characteristics indicative of physical abuse:

Excessive discipline wound pattern

- Bruises or welts with definitive shape or pattern

BRUISES: Timing or age dating of ecchymosis can be important.

The following is a rough guide:

Immediate to a few hours – red

Recent 6-12 hours - blue

Later 12- 14 hours - black/purple
4-6 days - green tint/dark
5-10 days - pale green/yellow

- Burns, fractures or sprains, lacerations or abrasions, rope burns on wrists and/or ankles.

COINING: A Southeast Asian folk medicine custom which leaves surface burns in patterns on the skin, primarily on the back. This practice is not reportable but should be a component of the assessment and documented.

- Neurological signs indicating intracranial injury (i.e. whiplash, shaken infant syndrome)
- Any injury that is unusual for the child's age group

Definition of Neglect

General Neglect: the negligent failure of a parent or caretaker to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision where no physical injury to child has occurred.

Severe neglect: the negligent failure of a parent or caretaker to protect the child from severe malnutrition or medically diagnosed nonorganic failure to thrive. It also means the person or health of the child is placed in a situation such that his or her person or health is endangered.

Signs of Neglect

Consider the possibility of neglect when the child:

- Is frequently absent from school
- Begs or steals food or money from classmates
- Is hungry/may be malnourished
- Lacks needed medical or dental care, immunizations, or glasses
- Is consistently dirty and has severe body odor
- Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs
- States there is no one at home to provide care
- Has a poor growth pattern/failure to thrive
- Lacks supervision
- Lives in unsafe/unsanitary living conditions

Consider the possibility of neglect when the parent or other adult caregiver:

- Appears to be indifferent to the child
- Seems apathetic or depressed
- Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner
- Is abusing alcohol or other drugs

Definition of Sexual Abuse

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Sexual abuse is defined as sexual assault on, or sexual exploitation of, a minor. Specifically, sexual assault includes: rape, rape in concert, incest, sodomy, oral copulation, penetration of genital or anal opening by a foreign object, and child molestation. It also includes lewd or lascivious conduct with a child less than 14 years of age. Sexual exploitation includes conduct or activities related to pornography depicting minors, and promoting prostitution by minors.

Signs of Sexual Abuse

Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the child:

- Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities, self-conscious of body beyond that expected by age
- Clinginess; fear of being left alone with a particular person or at a particular place
- Recurrent nightmares; disturbed sleep patterns; sudden fear of the dark
- Sudden regression to infantile behavior such as bedwetting, thumb sucking, excessive crying
- Desire to engage in self destructive behavior such as suicide attempts, biting oneself, pulling out hair, wrist-cutting
- May express unusual interest or knowledge about sexual matters, express affection in inappropriate ways for a child his or her age (unusually seductive with classmates/teachers/other adults)
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior (i.e. excessive/compulsive masturbation)
- Sudden acquisition of money, new clothing or gifts with no reasonable explanation
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age fourteen
- Runs away
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver

Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the parent or other adult caregiver:

- Is unduly protective of the child, severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex
- Is secretive and isolated/socially withdrawn
- Describes marital difficulties involving family power struggles or sexual relations
- Has severe over-reaction to child receiving any sex education in school setting
- The parent offender refuses to allow child to have normal boy/girl relationships
- Shows sexually inappropriate behavior with child

Physical indicators

- Genital trauma or irritation to the anus/genital areas
- Has difficulty walking or sitting due to genital or anal pain
- Stomachaches, headaches, or other psychosomatic symptoms

Definition of Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is defined as the infliction of mental and or emotional suffering upon a child.

Signs of Emotional Abuse

Consider the possibility of emotional maltreatment when the child:

- Shows extremes in behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity or aggression
- Is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example)
- Is delayed in physical or emotional development
- Has attempted suicide
- Reports a lack of attachment to the parent
- Show poor self-image, self-esteem
- Isolates himself/herself in group settings

Consider the possibility of emotional maltreatment when the parent or other adult caregiver:

- Constantly blames, belittles, or berates the child
- Constantly threatens the child
- Describes the child as bad, different, or evil
- Is unconcerned about the child and refuses to consider offers of help for the child's school problems
- Overtly rejects the child
- Has unrealistic expectations of the child

Child Welfare Information Gateway <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/whatiscan.pdf>

San Diego County Sheriff http://www.sdsheriff.net/co_childabuse.html

REPORTING

Who Reports

Legally mandated reporters include child care custodians, health practitioners, employees of a child protective agency, religious practitioners, and commercial film and photographic print processors.

- School nurses (health practitioners) are mandated reporters due to their license.
- Teachers, aides, bus drivers, and administrators (child care custodians) are all mandated reporters after having been trained in the duties imposed by the penal code.

When Do You Report

Child abuse must be reported when persons in their professional capacity or within the scope of their employment obtain knowledge of, or observe a child, who they “reasonably suspect” is being abused.

- Observe means to see, perceive, notice, or arrive at a conclusion after study.
- “Reasonable suspicion” occurs when “it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse.”
- You must make a report immediately (or as soon as practically possible) by phone. A written report must be submitted (online, fax, or mail) within 36 hours after the report is made.

REPORTING

1) The telephone call

The initial child abuse report must be made by a telephone call. Depending on the perceived severity and potential threat to the child the reporting individual can call:

The County Social Services Department's Child Protective Services **Child Abuse Hotline** at **(858) 560-2191** or **(800) 344-6000**.

The Hotline social worker does an immediate assessment of the referral. If the child is determined to be at risk a social worker is assigned to investigate. Each call is logged and evaluated as to the level of possible risk to the child. If it is determined that the child may be in immediate danger, a social worker and/or law enforcement officer will make a home visit within a few hours of receiving notification. If there is not an immediate danger, a social worker will investigate within five to ten days of receiving a call if it is determined that the child may be at risk.

Vital Information to Include in Report

- Your name/agency name & phone number
- Name of child, birthdate and age of child
- Address of child/apartment #
- Siblings/other children in the home
- Names of the parents of caregivers
- Name of the school the child attends
- Does the child have an active IEP/diagnosis
- Developmental delays/medical concerns
- Description of injury, behavior or concerns

You may also need to call a law enforcement agency (if warranted due to fear for the child's immediate safety):

Call the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the address where the abuse is believed to have happened. This may not be the same jurisdiction as the school site.

City of San Diego: San Diego Police Department—If you know that abuse has occurred you should call SDPD directly at **(619) 531-2000** or **(858) 484-3154**. Officers will investigate, take steps to protect the victim and prosecute the abuser, and inform the County Social Services Department.

The San Diego **Sheriff's Department** investigates cases of physical and sexual abuse against children 14 years old and under. The department works closely with Child Welfare Services and local advocacy groups to protect the children of San Diego County.

Or

If the abuse is in progress you should call **911**.

2) The written report: required after calling

The written report can be submitted in several ways:

1. FAX #858-467-0412
2. Mail: send to: Child Welfare Services/Hotline
6950 Levant St., San Diego, CA 92111

The specific child abuse reporting form for California Mandated Reporters can be found at http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf (State of California Attorney General's Office) or Google "SS 8572"

3. Digital means: it may be sent through the web-based system called the Mandated Reporter Application (MRA). Mandated reporters who wish to send their follow-up report through the MRA will need to provide their e-mail address to the Hotline screener and an account will be set up for you.

The MRA is a web-based system that allows mandated reporters to send their follow-up report through the internet. It does not replace the need to phone in your report to the Child Abuse Hotline. An advantage is the ability to send attachments such as documents and/or pictures.

Safeguards for Mandated Reporters

- Those persons legally required to report child abuse have immunity from criminal or civil liability for reporting in good faith.
- No supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit a report or subject the reporting person to any sanction.
- Reports are confidential and may be disclosed only to specified persons and agencies.
- Mandated reporters and others acting at their discretion are not liable civilly or criminally for photographing the victim and disseminating the photograph with the report.

Liability for Failure to Make a Report

- A person who fails to make a required report is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine. He or she may also be found civilly liable for

damages, especially if the child-victim or another child is further victimized because of the failure to report.

- Mandated reporters are immune from liability, however, that does not eliminate the possibility that actions may be brought. The law protects mandated reporters against financial hardship caused by legal action up to \$50,000 if the action is dismissed.

Feedback to Reporter

- After the investigation is completed or the matter reaches a final disposition, the investigating agency must inform the mandated reporter of the results of the investigation and any action the agency is taking.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES IN THE REPORTING PROCESS

Employees may remain anonymous if desired. You must tell the reporting agency you are a mandated reporter but you do not need to tell the district.

Any mandated employee who suspects abuse is responsible for completing the report. The report may include the names of all employees who have seen the marks or spoken with the child about the incident. It is not the role of employees to investigate the situation, find out the name of the perpetrator, etc.

The report should be filled out with as much information as possible. Carefully describe the wounds/marks and exactly what the child says. Do not draw conclusions or add opinions.

If a child is taken into protective custody, it is the responsibility of the policing agency to notify parents/guardians. The identity of the mandated reporter and child should remain confidential.

It is recommended that school nurses keep anecdotal notes of child abuse cases somewhere other than the student's health record. If called to testify, these notes may be used in court as a reference.

INTERVIEW

CPS (Child Welfare) and police may interview the child at school. The child may ask that an employee be present during the interview

INTERVENTION

HANDLING DISCLOSURE

When you are faced with a child who has been physically abused and has disclosed, it is often difficult to know how to respond. Below are some guidelines to help you and the child through this crisis period.

- Find a private place to talk with the child; maintain eye contact.
- Do not panic or express shock, remain calm.

- Listen; try to get the facts of the incident.
- Do not project or assume anything, let the child tell the story; leave your own assumptions out.
- Express your belief that the child is telling you the truth.
- Use the child's vocabulary.
- Reassure the child that it is not his/her fault; that he/she is not bad.
- Let the child know you will do your best to protect and support him or her.
- Let the child know what will happen once the report is made.
- Determine the child's immediate need for safety.
- Report to the proper authorities in your area (police, Department of Children's Services).

If the child discloses during a lesson, acknowledge the child's disclosure and continue the lesson. Afterwards, find a place where you can talk with the child alone.

Remember that your role is not to investigate the situation. It is your responsibility to report the abuse, set in motion the process of getting help for the child, and be supportive of the child. *Do not promise to maintain secrecy.*

If there is a suspicion of sexual abuse it is advised to not extensively interview the child, just report in the same terms/wording as the child.

AGE FACTORS TO CONSIDER FOR CHILD ABUSE CASES

Preschool Age Child:

- The younger the child, the higher the risk of serious injury.
- Younger child's story of abuse is generally truthful.
- Preschool age children don't usually know abuse is serious (their value of right and wrong is based on family behavior).
- Inappropriate abusive behavior of young children must be evaluated in relation to their normal child developmental stages.

School age up to preteens:

- Preteens are more prone to self-report family abuse

- Preteens are more aware of normal family behavior due to exposure to other children's families.
- School aged children tend to be protective of substance abuse parents (they take over being mini-parents for inadequate parent).

Teen:

- Teenagers may have hidden agendas (revenge or anger at parents).
- Sexual abuse is often disclosed by teens when family incest conflicts with normal teenage relationships.
- Teens who have been playing mini-parent may get tired of the role and disclose abuse to get back to being a teenager.

Reporting the Sexual Activity of Minors to Children's Protective Services

In California, health care practitioners are mandated to report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse. Sexual intercourse with a minor is reportable as child abuse when:

1. IT IS COERCED OR IN ANY OTHER WAY NOT VOLUNTARY

Mandated reporters must report any intercourse that was coerced or in any other way not voluntary, irrespective of the ages of the partners and even if both partners are the same age. Sexual activity is not voluntary, for example, when accomplished against the victim's will by means of force or duress, or when the victim is unconscious or so intoxicated that he or she cannot resist. See Penal Code § 261 for more examples. Irrespective of what your patient tells you, treating professionals should use clinical judgment and "evaluate facts known to them in light of their training and experience to determine whether they have an objectively reasonable suspicion of child abuse." 249 Cal. Rptr. 762.

2. AGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PATIENT AND PARTNER FALL OUTSIDE LEGAL PARAMETERS

Mandated reporters also must report based on the age difference between the patient and his or her partner in a few circumstances, according to the chart in the link below (Teen Health Law). A report is not mandated based solely on age; however, a reporter must use clinical judgment and must report if he or she has a reasonable suspicion that act was coerced, as described above.

http://teenhealthlaw.electricembers.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cal_sexual_abuse_reporting_6-10.pdf

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Every year between 100,000 to 300,000 youth are at risk for falling victim to commercial sexual exploitation with the average age of entry between 12-14 years of age. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a form of sexual abuse by adults in which sexual services are exchanged for money, goods or services to the child or a third person (i.e. a pimp). CSEC may include prostitution, pornography, stripping, etc. It is a form of modern day slavery.

The following resources have more information and offer help:

Services through the **San Diego Youth & Community Services (SDYCS)**:

San Diego Youth & Community Services (SDYCS) administers STARS (Surviving Together, Achieving and Reaching for Success). STARS is a program for teen girls between the ages of 12-17 involved with commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. STARS provides support to empower the youth to escape sexual exploitation by developing their inner strengths, building a sense of community, and supporting their reintegration into mainstream society.

<http://www.sdyouthservices.org/site/PageServer?pagename=STARS>

Action Network (also though San Diego Youth & Community Services) also administers the Baja California-San Diego for Freedom from Exploitation (B-SAFFE) Project. They provide victim services to trafficked children from ages 12 to 17.

<http://humantrafficking.org/organizations/395>

If calling from United States of America:

Tel: 1 -619-325-3527 ext. 209

Fax: 1 -619-325-3534

If calling from overseas:

Tel: +1 619 325 3527 ext. 209

Fax: +1 619 325 3534

GenerateHope empowers trafficked young women to *discover a future of freedom* and provides a safe place for victims of sex trafficking to be restored through long-term housing, healing, and education. <http://www.generatehope.org/>

Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC) is an alliance of over 60 government and nonprofit agencies in the United States and Latin America that is convened in and along the U.S.-Mexico border region to combat slavery and human trafficking.

<http://www.bsccoalition.org/>

San Diego County District Attorney <http://www.sdcdca.org/preventing/human-trafficking/>

The following article is from the Los Angeles County Office of Education's *School Nurse Orientation & Review Manual 2008*. It is credited as being written by Phil D. Kauble (author of *California Laws Relating to Minors*, 2007) with the following notation: "special appreciation is extended to Martha Torgow, deputy county counsel, County of Los Angeles, for her technical advice and assistance in the development of this article."

CHILD ABUSE RECORD KEEPING by Phil D. Kauble

The mandate that employees designated as "child care custodians" for "child protective agencies" are required to report suspected child abuse is well documented and reasonably understood. However, confusion continues to exist regarding internal procedures which may be established by such agencies for the purpose of facilitating and recording the reporting process.

Background: Factors and Considerations

Penal Code (PC) 11166 requires that any child care custodian, health practitioner, or employee of a child protective agency who knows or reasonably suspects child abuse shall report the suspected incident to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and shall prepare and send a written report there within 36 hours.

This section further provided that reporting duties under this section are individual, and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit the reporting duties and no person making such a report shall be subject to any sanction for making the report. *However, internal procedures to facilitate reporting and apprising supervisors and administrators of reports may be established provided that they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this article.*

Effective January 1, 1989, any supervisor or administrator who impedes or inhibits a person's reporting duties will be subject to a jail term not to exceed six months or a fine of not more than one thousand dollars,

PC 11167 specifies, in part, that the identity of all persons required to report cases of suspected child abuse reports shall be held confidential and may be disclosed only to persons or agencies to whom disclosure of the identity of the reporting party is permitted under *PC 11167*.

The major thrusts of these sections cited are to insure that child abuse reporting rights are not violated while providing for confidentiality and the protection of the reporting party.

Recommended Procedures: District Options

As previously stated, the suspected child abuse reporting law does allow for the development of internal procedures to facilitate the proper handling and disposition of

filings. However, such procedures must not conflict with other provisions of the law. To assist with this development, the following procedures are suggested guidelines which districts may wish to explore:

Option 1: A suspected child abuse report shall remain in the sole possession of the person filing the report.

- This practice will insure compliance with the laws in the event the reporting party is accused of not filing a required report of suspected child abuse. The total responsibility for filing the report, maintaining confidentiality and individual protection, and defending oneself in the event of a challenge is placed solely in the care of the reporting party.

Remember, PC 11167 allows that the reporting party is not required, nor may they be directed by local policy, to disclose any information related to filing of the report

Option 2: A notation of a suspected child abuse report may be included in the pupil record. Such a notation would include a notation that a report was filed, the reporting date, and the agency with which the report is filed.

- The placing of information related to a report of suspected child abuse in the pupil file should only be done pursuant to Board policy. Furthermore, this is done at the discretion of the reporting party. This option affords additional protection to the district as it serves to verify that a report was filed and to the victim by providing an ongoing record if the pupil should move or transfer.

Prudent practice would seem to dictate that references to the filing of a child abuse report should be maintained in the pupil's health record and that proper maintenance procedures be adopted pursuant to Title 5, California Administrative Code, Section 16020, et seq.

Option 3: A notation of suspected child abuse may be maintained in a centralized file established for the purpose of providing a record to establish that such reports were filed as required.

- This suggestion would be combined with the provisions of option 2, and thus provide additional protection for the district and the person filing the report. A centralized file would seem to provide an easier means for a district superintendent or his designee to verify that suspected child abuse reports have been reported as required by law.

Caveats: Final Warnings

District guidelines and procedures for the proper handling and filing of suspected child abuse reports should be clearly established and developed by the local governing board. When developing local policies, it is strongly recommended that districts adhere to the following warnings:

- *Never* place a copy of the original child abuse report in the pupil record file
- *Do not* forward a copy of a child abuse report to other school districts in the event a pupil moves or transfers.
- *Do* make a notation of known reports in the pupil record file. It is recommended that a pupil's health record be used for this purpose.
- *Include only* information related to the suspected act, the filing and the agency to which the report was submitted in the pupil record file.

Finally, districts should not overlook the option of referring a pupil to the school nurse when abnormalities, behavior concerns, or health problems indicate suspected child abuse. This practice does not preclude a "child care custodian" from filing suspected child abuse report with the proper child protective agency. However, it does provide the opportunity to record health-related information in the pupil's health file without making a specific reference to the filing of a suspected child abuse report.

Child Abuse Prevention

Protective Factors

Prevention programs have long focused on reducing particular risk factors, or conditions that research shows are associated with child abuse and neglect.

Increasingly, prevention services are also recognizing the importance of promoting protective factors, circumstances in families and communities that increase the health and well-being of children and families. These factors help parents who might otherwise be at risk of abusing or neglecting their children to find resources, supports, or coping strategies that allow them to parent effectively, even under stress.

The following six protective factors have been linked to a lower incidence of child abuse and neglect:

- **Nurturing and attachment.** When parents and children have strong, warm feelings for one another, children develop trust that their parents will provide what they need to thrive.
- **Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development.** Parents who understand how children grow and develop and know the typical developmental milestones can provide an environment where children can live up to their potential.

- Parental resilience. Parents who are emotionally resilient have a positive attitude, creatively problem solve, effectively address challenges, and are less likely to direct anger and frustration at their children.
- Social connections. Trusted and caring family friends provide emotional support to parents by offering encouragement and assistance in facing the daily challenges of raising a family.
- Concrete supports for parents. Parents need basic resources such as food, clothing, housing, transportation, and access to essential services that address family-specific needs (such as child care, health care, and mental health services) to ensure the health and well-being of their children.
- Social and emotional competence. Children with the ability to positively interact with others, self-regulate their behaviors, and communicate their feelings have relationships that are more positive with family, friends, and peers. Children without these competencies may be at greater risk for abuse.

From the Child Welfare Information Gateway

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

References/Resources

Child Protective Services <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/pg93.htm>

Children and Family Services Division <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/>

Understanding the Child Welfare System in California: A Primer for Service Providers and Policymakers http://www.ccrwf.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/final_web_pdf.pdf

Mandated Reporter Training <http://mandatedreporterca.com/>

Mandated Reporter Training frequently asked questions:

<http://www.mandatedreporterca.com/faq/faq.htm>

Los Angeles County School Nurse Orientation and Review manual 2010

Legal References

ECS 44691 Dissemination of child abuse information

ECS 44877 Child Abuse training for School Nurses

ECS 48906 Notification of parent, guardian or relative of release of pupil to peace officer; procedure for victims of suspected child abuse

ECS 48913 Notification of release of child to police officer

H & SC 605 Child Abuse Training for Public Health Nurses

PC 11165 Definitions of: child; sexual abuse; neglect; willful cruelty; unlawful corporal punishment; abuse in Out-of Home care; non-accidental injury; teacher and instructional aide as childcare custodians

Last updated April 2016

- PC 11166 Persons authorized/required to report Duty of Child Protective Agency
Punishment for impeding required reports
- PC 11167 Confidentiality of report
- PC 11168 Written report
- PC 11172 No liability for reporting; penalty for failure to
- PC 11174 Guideline for interviewing child and investigating reported abuse

California Codes may be retrieved here:
<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>