

# Mandated Reporter Training

## **Behavioral Indicators of Possible Abuse**

### **Physical Abuse**

- Reluctant to change clothes for gym, swimming, etc.
- Wears long-sleeved shirts, pants on hot days
- Gives vague and/or inconsistent explanations for injuries
- Complains of pain or shows signs of pain (walking stiffly or with limp, favoring arm)
- Flinches when adult moves too close, or when adult moves suddenly while near child

### **Sexual Abuse**

- Has sexualized behavior beyond what is expected for child's age. Some examples are:
  - Pretends dolls are having intercourse
  - Asks adult to touch child's breasts, genitalia
  - Acts very reductive around adults
  - Molests other children (coercive sexual play, often involving children younger than the child in question) S Masturbates excessively (is not easily distracted, cannot stop for sustained period when asked)

### **Indicators of Stress (may or may not be related to abuse)**

Depression, withdrawal from others

Aggression towards others ("acting out")

Significant change in behavior

Anxiety

Fears of certain places, people, etc.

Nightmares \*

Acting like a much younger child (Ex. wetting the bed, becoming very clingy)

Suddenly doing poorly in school

Marked change in appetite (eats more or less than usual)

Irritability and mood swings

Cruelty to animals

Lots of physical complaints (ex, stomach aches, headaches, fatigue)

Drug and/or alcohol abuse

## Tips for Talking to Kids

1. Stay calm!!
2. Remain nonjudgmental
3. Be supportive.
4. **Reassure the child that abuse is NOT her/his fault.**
5. "I'm glad you told me."
6. **Obtain only enough information to decide if a report is warranted.**
7. Use age-appropriate language
8. Use short sentences with easy words
9. Don't interrupt or correct
10. Start with open-ended questions; use direct questions carefully (avoid leading questions) *Examples:*

### Open-ended Questions

- Pointing at bruising on thighs: "How 'd you get these marks?"
- "Can you tell me what happened?"
- "Is there anything else you want to tell me?"

### Direct Questions:

- "What happened to your arm?"
- "What is that mark on your face?"
- "Do your parents know?"
  
- "When will you be seeing her again?"

## You Need to Know:

1. Who
2. What
3. Where (in general terms, only)
4. When (if child able to give estimate)
5. Access to perpetrator
6. Safety of child
7. Does child need medical attention (pain, bleeding, discomfort, etc)?
8. Does anyone else know about abuse?

## **Avoid...**

1. Asking too many questions (getting details that aren't needed)
2. Asking leading/suggestive questions ("Was it your daddy who touched you?")
3. Promising to keep a secret before you know what it is.
4. Telling the child you'll make sure it never happens again.
5. Predicting to the child what will happen.
6. Assuring the child everything will be okay.
7. Saying things like, "We're gonna get that! @\* & %\*!"
8. Showing your anger, disgust, disbelief, dread, and confusion.

## **Tips for Making a Report Information You Need to**

### **Make a Report for Child Abuse/Neglect:**

- Demographic Information (usually can be found on registration sheet for child)
  - Child: name, address, date of birth
  - Mother: name, address, date of birth, phone number (home and work)
  - Suspected maltreater (if known): name, address, phone number, relationship to child
- Specifics of injury (time, place, details of injury)
- Specific statements made by child and caretaker (use exact words child used, if possible)
- Prior concerns you may have had regarding abuse/neglect
- Child's access to perpetrator
- Concerns you may have about child's immediate safety
- Child's functioning and abilities
- Any information you know or suspect about issues concerning the family

**You may not have all of this information. That's okay. When a child initially tells someone he or she has been abused, he/she may only reveal a portion of what actually happened.**

### **Documentation you should maintain:**

- Document the name and phone number of the person you called
- Document that you made a report to authorities (and list the agencies you called)

## Mandated Reporters

Persons in some professions are required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect as well as those situations in which they have reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect or that abuse or neglect will occur. Penalty: Persons required to report who intentionally fail to report suspected child abuse or neglect may be fined up to \$1,000 or imprisoned up to 6 months or both. **A report requires only reasonable suspicion, NOT absolute certainty.**

Physicians  
Coroners  
Medical examiners  
Nurses  
Dentists  
Chiropractors  
Optometrists  
Acupuncturists  
A medical or mental health professional  
Social workers  
Marriage & family therapists  
Professional counselors  
Public assistance workers, including a financial & employment planner, as defined in s.49.141 (1) (d), Stats.  
School teachers  
School administrators  
School counselors  
Mediators under s.767.11, Stats.  
Child-care workers in a day care center, group home, as described in s.48.625 (1m), Stats, (a "second chance home"), or residential care center for children and youth  
Day care providers  
Alcohol or other drug abuse counselors  
Member of the treatment staff employed by or working under contract with a county department under s. 46.23, 51.42, or 51.437, Stats., or a residential care center for children and youth  
Physical therapists  
Physical therapist assistants  
Occupational therapists  
Dieticians  
Speech-language pathologists  
Audiologists  
Emergency medical technicians  
First responders  
Police and law enforcement officers  
Court-appointed special advocates (CASA)  
Clergy

Again, these people are mandated by law to report. . . This does not cover any moral mandate that we all have to protect children. ANY person may report if there is reason to believe a child has been abused or neglected or has been threatened with abuse or neglect. If you suspect that child abuse or neglect is occurring, contact your local child protective services agency, human services agency, or police department. **Mandated reporters are protected from criminal liability as long as they act in good faith.**

This information was obtained from Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin. For more information go to:  
<http://www.preventchildabusewi.org/mrs.htm>

## "Who Should I Call When Making a Report?"

Call the Child Protective Services agency in the county where the child lives.  
Law enforcement in the city or county where the child lives.

### Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Agencies

Adams Co.	608-339-4256	Dane Co.	
After hours:	608-339-3304	Central Referral	608-261-5437
		Northport	608-242-6200
Ashland Co.	715-682-7004	South Madison	608-261-9900
After hours:	715-682-7023	Stoughton Sun	608-873-5636
		Prairie Cross	608-837-7380
Barron Co.	715-537-5691	Plains	608-798-5800
After hours:	715-537-3106		
		Dodge Co.	920-386-3750
Bayfield Co.	715-373-6144	After hours:	920-887-6713
After hours:	715-373-6120		
		Door Co. After	920-746-2300
Brown Co.	920-448-6035	hours:	920-746-2400
	920-448-6036		
After hours:	920-448-3200	Douglas Co.	715-395-1304
		After hours:	715-395-1375
Buffalo Co.	608-685-4412		
After hours:	608-685-4433	Dunn Co. After	715-232-1116
		hours:	715-232-1348
Burnett Co.	715-349-7600		
After hours:	715-349-2131	Eau Claire Co.	715-831-5730
Calumet Co.	920-849-1400	Florence Co.	715-528-3296
Office hours crisi's:	920-849-9317	After hours:	715-528-3346
After hours crisis:	920-849-9317		
		Fond du Lac Co.	920-929-3400
Chippewa Co.	715-726-7799	After hours:	920-929-3391
After hours:	715-726-7830		
		Forest Co. After	715-478-3351
Clark Co.	715-743-5233	hours:	715-478-3331
After hours:	715-743-3157		
Toll Free:	866-743-5233	Grant Co. After	608-723-2136
		hours:	608-723-2157
Columbia Co.	608-742-9227		
		Green Co.	608-328-9399
Crawford Co.	608-326-0248	CYF Department:	608-328-9384
After hours:	608-326-0241	After hours:	608-328-9393

Green Lake Co. 920-294-4070  
800-664-3588  
After hours: 920-294-4000

Iowa Co. 608-935-9311  
After hours: 608-935-3314

Iron Co. 715-561-3636  
715-561-3637  
715-561-4168  
After hours: 715-561-3800

Jackson Co. 715-284-4301  
After hours: 715-284-5357

Jefferson Co. 920-674-3105

Juneau Co. 608-847-2400  
After hours: 608-847-6161

Kenosha Co. 262-605-6582  
After hours: 262-657-7188

Kewaunee Co. 920-388-3777  
After hours: 920-388-3100

La Crosse Co. 608-785-6054  
After hours: 608-785-9634

Lafayette Co. 608-776-4800  
After hours: 608-776-4848

Langlade Co. 715-627-6500  
After hours: 715-623-4111

Lincoln Co. 715-536-6200  
After hours: 715-536-6272

Manitowoc Co. 920-683-4230  
After hours: 920-323-2448

Marathon Co. 715-261-7500  
After hours: 715-261-1200

Marinette Co. 715-732-7700  
After hours: 715-732-7600

Marquette Co. 608-297-9136x235  
After hours: 608-297-2115

Menominee Co. 715-799-3861  
After hours: 715-799-3881  
Menominee Indian  
Tribe of Wisconsin. 715-799-5161

Milwaukee Co. 414-220-SAFE(7233)

Monroe Co. 608-269-8600  
After hours: 911

Oconto Co. 920-834-7000  
After hours: 920-834-6900

Oneida Co. 715-362-5695  
After hours: 715-361-5100

Outagamie Co. 920-832-5161  
After hours: 920-832-4646

Ozaukee Co. 262-238-8200  
After hours: 262-238-8436

Pepin Co. 715-672-8941  
After hours: 715-672-5944

Pierce Co. 715-273-6766  
After hours: 715-273-5051

Polk Co. 715-485-8400  
After hours: 715-485-8300

Portage Co. 715-345-5350

Price Co. 715-339-2158  
After hours: 715-339-3011

Racine Co. 262-638-6321

Richland Co. 608-647-8821  
After hours: 608-647-2106

Rock Co.	608-757-5401	Vilas Co.	715-479-3668
General Switchboard:	608-757-5200	After hours:	715-479-4441
Rusk Co.	715-532-2299	Walworth Co.	262-741-3200
Sheriffs Department:	715-532-2200	Toll Free:	800-365-1587
Sauk Co.	608-355-4200	Washburn Co.	715-468-4747
After hours Crisis:	800-533-5692	After hours:	715-468-2721
Sawyer Co.	715-638-3323	Washington Co.	262-306-2222 or
After hours:	715-634-4858		877-306-3030
Shawano Co.	715-526-4700	Waukesha Co.	262-548-7212
After hours:	715-526-3100	After hours:	262-548-7666
Sheboygan Co.	920-459-6418	Waupaca Co.	715-258-6300
After hours:	920-459-3111	After hours:	715-258-4466
St. Croix Co.	715-246-8285 715-	Waushara Co.	920-787-3303
After hours:	386-4711 or 911	Toll Free:	888-250-4331
		After hours:	920-787-3321
Taylor Co.	715-748-3332	Winnebago Co.	920-236-4600
After hours:	715-748-2200	After hours:	920-233-7707
Trempealeau Co.	715-538-2311x290	Wood Co.	715-421-8600 (South)
After hours: f	715-538-4351		715-387-6374 (North)
Vernon Co.	608-637-5210		
After hours:	608-637-2124		

List updated December 13, 2006

**Childhelp® Nationwide Child Abuse Reporting Hotline: 800-4A-Child (1-800-422-4453)**

**For a list of child abuse and neglect reporting numbers by state visit the  
National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect online at  
[http://www.xhlmwelfare.gov/pubslreslistlrljispjfm?rs\\_id=5&rate\\_chno=ll-11172](http://www.xhlmwelfare.gov/pubslreslistlrljispjfm?rs_id=5&rate_chno=ll-11172)**

# An Overview of the CPS Process

## CPS Access

CPS receives a report of alleged child abuse and/or neglect from a source.

## Screening Decision

**Screened-in:** CPS determines that at least one allegation meets criteria of possible child abuse and/or neglect.

**Screened-out:** CPS determines that all allegations do not meet statutory requirements for abuse and/or neglect.

CPS case closed. Family may still be offered/referred services.

## Investigation/Initial Assessment

CPS assesses:  
Is the child safe?  
Are risk conditions present?  
Did maltreatment occur?

## Maltreatment Finding:

Substantiated or Unsubstantiated, and/or Abuse Likely or Not Likely to Occur, or Critical Information Sources Not Available.

