

Written Report Required

In Writing: Within 36 hours of making a telephone report, a written report, **including a Suspected Child Abuse Report form**, must be sent, faxed or submitted electronically to the agency contacted by phone.

Your site or the District Office have copies of the state form (Form 8752), or you may download the form at:

http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf

Safeguards for Mandated Reporters

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act requires that the **name of the mandated reporter remains strictly confidential**, although it is provided to investigative agencies working on a case of child abuse.

Under state law, mandated reporters are **absolutely immune from any civil or criminal liability in court** for making a required report.



Consequences for Failing to Make a Report

- Failure to make a required report of suspected child abuse is a crime and constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by six months in county jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine or both.
- If a child dies or is severely injured as a result of further abuse after a mandated reporter failed to make a required report, this is a crime and is punishable by one year in county jail and/or up to a \$5,000 fine or both.



For the complete law and a list of mandated reporters, please refer to California Penal Codes sections 11164—111743.



**Fresno Unified
School District**

Preparing Career Ready Graduates

California Mandated Reporting Requirements for District Employees

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

Fresno Unified School District

Human Resources Department
2309 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Phone: (559) 457-3500
Fax: (559) 457-3528
E-mail: www.fresnounified.org

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

In California, children are protected from child abuse and neglect including any act or omission that endangers or impairs a child's physical or emotional health and development. (Penal Code § 11164 et seq.)

California law mandates certain public school employees to report suspected child abuse. These employees are known as "Mandated Reporters."

Who Must Report

Virtually all school district employees assigned at school sites are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse immediately to law enforcement or the California Department of Social Services (DSS) (Penal Code § 11165.7).

- Mandated Reporters include:
 - ◆ Teachers
 - ◆ Principals and Vice Principals
 - ◆ Nurses
 - ◆ Counselors
 - ◆ Police and Security Personnel
 - ◆ All Classified Employees
 - ◆ Athletic Coaches and Support Staff

What is Child Abuse

Child abuse is defined as any act or omission that endangers or impairs a child's physical or emotional health and development. This includes:

Physical Abuse

A physical injury inflicted on a child by another person that is not an accident.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual assault or sexual exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult. This can include verbalization, exposure, improper touching and sexual intercourse.

Emotional Abuse

When a child suffers or is at risk of suffering serious emotional damage. This can include constant criticism, rejection, threats, intimidation, humiliation, the withholding of love and support, and isolation.

Neglect

The negligent failure to meet the child's basic physical and medical needs. This can include: lack of proper supervision, food, clothing, shelter, medical attention, sanitation.

When to Report

A mandated reporter **must** make a report whenever in his or her **professional capacity** or within the **scope of employment**, the employee has **knowledge** or **observes** a child whom the employee **knows or reasonably suspects** has been the victim of child abuse or neglect.

This means that a mandated reporter must **only have a reasonable suspicion** that a child is suffering from abuse in order to be required to make a report, and no evidence or proof is required.

Who Must Report

By phone: **Immediately, or as soon as possible**, make a telephone report to child welfare services and/or to a police department or sheriff's department.

Fresno County Dept. of Social Services
559-255-8320
Fresno County Sheriff's Office
559-600-3111
Fresno Police Department
559-621-2000



If a child is at risk of imminent harm, call 9-1-1

