



What is the Mandatory Reporting law?

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) law requires a mandated reporter to submit a report when he or she, in the course and scope of employment, observes, or has knowledge of, or reasonably suspects child abuse or neglect.

What must be reported?

A mandated reporter must report physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and/or neglect involving any child under age 18. A “reasonable suspicion” that a child has been abused or neglect is sufficient to trigger the duty to report. A mandated reporter is not to conduct an investigation or collect evidence before making a report.

Who is a mandated reporter?

The law identifies many categories of mandated reporters, including school employees, medical professionals, social workers, animal control officers, law enforcement officials, clergy members, child care workers, film processors, computer technicians, athletic coaches, firefighters, state and county employees, and many others.

When should a report be made?

A telephone report must be made immediately, followed by a written report, which must be submitted within 36 hours.

Reporting to a direct supervisor such as a school principal or child care director DOES NOT meet your requirement as a Mandated Reporter in the eyes of the law.



How do I make a report?

In Santa Clara County, reports can be made to the Child Abuse Hotline, which operates 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. You may also call your local police department or sheriff.

- **San Jose Area**
(408) 299-2071
- **Gilroy / Morgan Hill Area**
(408) 683-0601
- **Palo Alto Area**
(650) 493-1186

- *Call Immediately*
- *File written report in 36 hrs*

The written report must be on Form SS 8572:

http://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/pdfs/childabuse/ss_8572.pdf

Why must I make a report?

A mandated reporter must report suspected child abuse and neglect so that a trained child welfare professional can assess the level of risk to the child. A report does not mean the child will automatically go into foster care. In most cases of suspected child abuse or neglect, the child can remain in the home with appropriate services.

What happens if I do not report?

Failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect is a misdemeanor and is punishable in California by:

- six months in jail and/or
- a \$1,000 fine.
- In addition, a professional can lose their license and employment.



How can I be assured that I am protected from liability if I make a report?

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) provides that the name of the mandated reporter is confidential.

Please be advised that state law and/or the Policies and Procedures of the Department of Family and Children's Services may require the information you provide on the Child Abuse form to be reported and submitted to civil authorities. Those exceptions noted, the information you submit will be treated in strictest confidence.

For more information

Free online training for mandated reporters:
<http://mandatedreporterca.com/who/who.htm>
(Certificates of completion available)

Child Abuse Council of Santa Clara County:
www.cacsc.org

----“Mandated Reporter Resources page”
<http://www.cacsc.org/mandatedres.htm>

----“Making A Report”
www.cacsc.org/report.htm

----“Professional Training” for Course
Listings and Mandated Reporter Trainings:
www.cacsc.org/ProTraining/events.htm

Department of Family & Children’s Services
(SSA): www.sccgov.org/sites/ssa

Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Form
(SS 8572):
http://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/pdfs/childabuse/ss_8572.pdf

Definitions and general instructions for
completion of Form SS 8572:
http://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/pdfs/childabuse/8572_instruct.pdf

California Child Abuse and Neglect
Reporting Law 2013:
<http://www.cacsc.org/GBACAPCV6.pdf>

California Child Abuse and Neglect
Reporting Law: Issues and Answers for
Mandated Reporters 6/2012
<http://mandatedreporterca.com/images/Pub132.pdf>

This brochure was developed by
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The mission of the Child Abuse
Council of Santa Clara County is to
protect children from abuse and
neglect by their parents and
caregivers, and from the systems
designed to protect them.

408-293-5450

www.cacsc.org

Protecting children from abuse and neglect



Your responsibilities as a mandated reporter

