



Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse

Maricopa County Children's Justice Program

Presented by:

Children's Justice Coordinator



Agenda



- Sign-in
- Pre-test
- Mandatory Reporter Training
- Questions
- Post-test (We'll grade pre and post together)
- Trainer Evaluation
- Certificate of Compliance



Training Objectives

Mandatory Reporter Training



- Discuss advocacy centers, including Childhelp.
- Understand impacts of child abuse and neglect on the child and society.
- Review the “Maricopa County Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse” (“Protocol”).
- Understand mandatory reporter statutes associated with the Protocol.
- Provide law enforcement and Department of Child Safety (DCS) contact information.

• Note: As of the date of this training, all references are to the August 2008 revision of the Protocol.

Advocacy Centers



Generally



- Provide a child-appropriate and child-friendly facility.
- Promote multidisciplinary investigations and coordinated forensic interviews.
 - The multidisciplinary team: law enforcement, DCS, forensic medical professionals and interviewers, prosecutors, victim advocates, mental health professionals
- Facilitate case reviews.
- Offer services such as medical evaluation, therapeutic intervention, and victim advocacy in a single location.

Advocacy Centers

Maricopa County

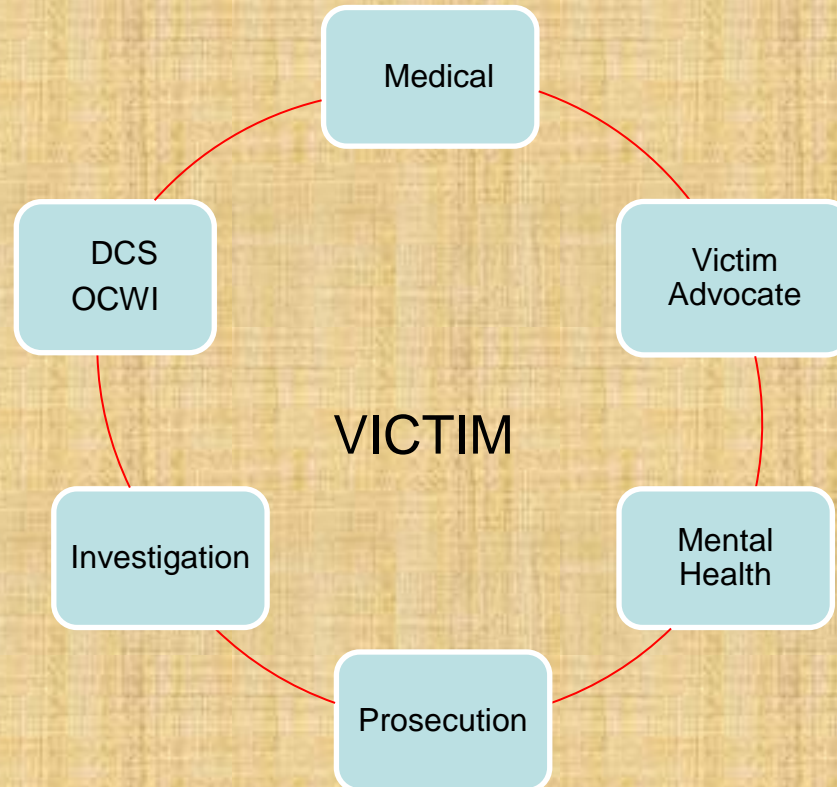


7 advocacy centers located in Maricopa County:

- Childhelp Children's Center (Phoenix)
- Glendale Advocacy Center
- Chandler Family Advocacy Center
- Mesa Family Advocacy Center
- Scottsdale Family Advocacy Center
- Southwest Family Advocacy Center (Goodyear)
- Maricopa Family Advocacy Center



Advocacy Centers

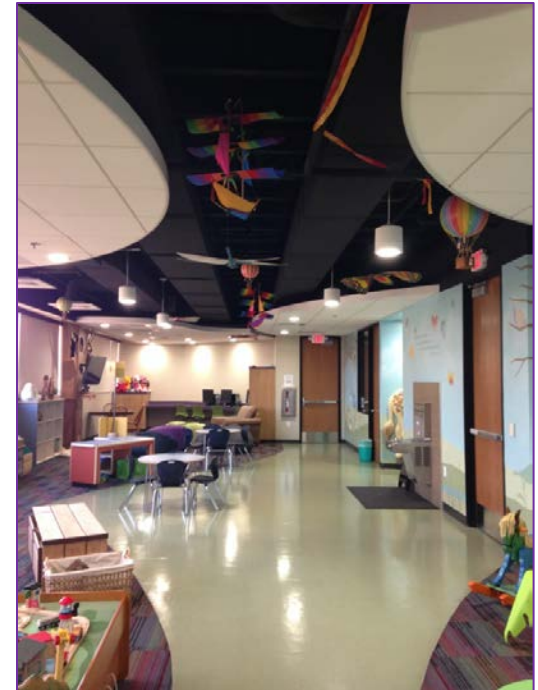


Advocacy Centers

Childhelp



The goal of the Childhelp Children's Center is to provide medical treatment, mental health therapy, efficient investigational resources, and victim support services to address the immediate safety and complete well-being of children who are referred to the center.



A “one-stop” approach to child advocacy.



Understanding Child Abuse



National Statistics

- A child abuse report is made every 10 seconds.
- More than 4 children die every day as a result of child abuse.
- 3.6 million referrals are made to child protection agencies involving more than 6.6 million children annually.
- More than 90% of juvenile sexual abuse victims know their offender in some way.

• See <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/>.



Current Statistics



- There were 676,000 child victims of abuse & neglect in 2016 in Arizona.
- This is about 9.1 per 1,000 children.
- 28.5% of victims were under 3 years of age.
- Statistics show a 3% increase in the national number of victims since 2012.

Note: data is collected on abuse and neglect every 2 years.



Understanding Child Abuse



Economic Impact

- In 2008, lifetime estimates of lost worker productivity, health care costs, special education costs, child welfare expenditures and criminal justice expenditures added up to \$124 billion.
- This could send 1.7 million children to college.

• See <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/>.



Understanding Child Abuse



Health Impact

- Adverse childhood experiences are linked to a long-term health impact.
- 6+ adverse experiences potentially decrease life expectancy by two decades.
- Heart disease, pulmonary disease, liver disease linked to child abuse.

• See <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/>.



Understanding Child Abuse



Fatalities

- In 2014, state agencies identified an estimated 1,580 children who died as a result of abuse and neglect.
- More than 80% of children that died were not yet old enough for kindergarten.
- Around 80% of child maltreatment fatalities involve at least one perpetrating parent.

• See <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/>.



Mandatory Reporting Law

Importance & Relevance



- Because of your relationship with a particular child, you are often the first person to whom the child discloses abuse.
- You are often the first to recognize behavioral changes and suspect abuse.
- You may be the only responsible adult in a child's life.



Mandatory Reporting Law

Importance & Relevance



- It takes a tremendous amount of courage for a child to decide to disclose abuse or neglect. Therefore, if a child chooses YOU to disclose to, it is critical to be cognizant of your body language, tone, word choice, and personal opinions while speaking with the child.



Mandatory Reporting Law

Generally



- Found in the Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) and the Protocol.
- A.R.S. Title 13 – Criminal Code
 - A.R.S. § 13-3620
- A.R.S. Title 8 – Child Safety statutes
- Be aware of potential legislative amendments and Protocol revisions.

- See A.R.S. Title 13.
- See <http://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/pdfs/protocols/Multidisciplinary-Protocol-on-Investigation-of-Child-Abuse-2008.pdf>.



Mandatory Reporting Law



A.R.S. § 13-3620(A)

- “Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Any person...

- Any person...
 - Medical health professional
 - Peace officer, DCS investigator/worker
 - Member of the clergy
 - Parent, stepparent, guardian
 - School personnel
 - Domestic violence victim advocates
 - Those responsible for minor's care or treatment

*“**Any person** who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



If you are not a mandatory reporter



- You are a **discretionary reporter** and you still may report.





Mandatory Reporting Law



Any person...

- Peace officer and members of the clergy
 - All children, all the time
 - Always on duty
- Parents, step-parents, guardians
 - Their own children, all the time
 - Duty to report even if care is temporary

*“**Any person** who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law



Any person...

- Persons whose jobs or professions impose a duty to report information received during the course of employment.
 - Medical health professionals, counselors, school personnel, domestic violence victim advocates
- Some of the time, all children

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Any person... Course of Employment

- Some of the time, all children
 - When off duty, your profession does not impose a mandatory duty to report.
 - Exception: Because of your employment, a third-party provides you information regarding abuse or neglect of a child.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Any person... Third-Party Information

- If a mandated reporter is informed by a third-party that a child may be the victim of abuse or neglect, the third-party should be encouraged to make a report.
- Note: It is still the mandated reporter's responsibility to immediately make a report. See Protocol, Ch. VIII, § II(A)(3).

*“**Any person** who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law



Any person... Third-Party Information

- When reporting information received from a third-party, attempt to obtain:
 - The third-party's contact information.
 - The victim's name and age.
 - The third-party's answers to 4 basic questions: Who? What? When? Where?

*“**Any person** who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law



Any person... Personal Responsibility

- Be advised:
 - It is ultimately the responsibility of the person receiving the initial disclosure or making the initial observations of abuse to ensure that a report is made to the proper authorities. See Protocol, Ch. VIII, § II(C).
 - Reporting to a supervisor, principal, school nurse, counselor, youth protection advocate, director, etc. does not relieve one's duty to report.

*“**Any person** who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law

Establishing Reasonable Belief



- Formed through facts, personal knowledge, and reliable third-party information.
- Does not require certainty. The standard for investigation and prosecution is not the same standard that trigger's a mandatory reporter's duty to report.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



When do Victims Report Abuse?

- Only 1/3 of victims report abuse as a child.
- Most victims of child abuse will wait to disclose until they are an adult.

Retrieved from Attorney General's training: "Child Abuse in a Religious Setting," 2018



Understanding re-offense (Poly-victimization)

- 38.7 percent of children surveyed reported more than one type of direct victimization in the previous year
- Almost 11 percent or more than 1 in 10 children reported being directly exposed to five or more different types of violence with just over one percent reporting 10 or more victimizations.
- Youth who are polyvictimized have a far greater level of additional lifetime adversities and distress, including illnesses, accidents, family unemployment, parental substance abuse, and mental illness.
- Polyvictims exhibit much higher levels of distress, such as anxiety, depression, anger, and PTSD. They also display higher levels of distress than children who experienced frequent victimizations of a single type.



Mandatory Reporting Law

Establishing Reasonable Belief



- 3 ways to develop a reasonable belief:
 - Direct disclosure from child.
 - Child has unexplained injuries or an explanation that is inconsistent with injuries.
 - Credible third-party with reliable information giving reason to believe abuse or neglect has occurred.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



What to Do...

- **DO:**
 - Find a quiet, private place conducive to one-on-one conversation to talk.
 - Listen intently.
 - Document exact quotes.
 - Support the child without judgment.
 - Be aware of your body language.

• See Protocol, Ch. VIII, §§ II & III.



Mandatory Reporting Law



What Not to Do...

- **DO NOT:**
 - Make assumptions.
 - Make promises.
 - Speak negatively about the child's family.
 - Ask questions that the child has already answered.
 - Counsel the child by asking additional questions or for statement expansion.

• See Protocol, Ch. VIII, §§ II & III.



Mandatory Reporting Law



When speaking with a child...

- Ask only these 4 open-ended questions:
 - **What** happened?
 - **Who** did it?
 - **Where** were you when it happened?
 - **When** did it happen?
- *Additional questions may contaminate or spoil the investigation.*



Mandatory Reporting Law

Examples & Practice



- You ask, “What happened to your face?”
Child responds, “I got hit.”
 - Follow-up questions: Who? Where? When?
- You ask, “What happened to your face?”
Child responds, “Last night, at home, my dad hit me because I was late.”
 - Follow-up questions: None.

Resist the urge to ask questions beyond the what, who, where and when.



Mandatory Reporting Law



Minor/Past & Present Abuse

- **Minor**
 - Individual who is under 18 years of age or was under 18 years of age when abuse or neglect occurred.
- **Past and present abuse**
 - Both must be reported.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law

Identifying Child Abuse & Neglect



- Abuse
 - Physical
 - Sexual
 - Emotional
- Neglect

*“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...**abuse...or neglect**...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law



Physical Abuse Defined

- A.R.S. § 8-201
 - “...infliction or allowing of physical injury...”
- A.R.S. § 13-3623(F)(4) – Physical Injury
 - “...impairment of physical condition and includes any skin bruising, pressure sores, bleeding, failure to thrive, malnutrition, dehydration, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, injury to any internal organ or any physical condition that imperils health or welfare.” See *also* A.R.S. § 8-201(33).

*“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...**abuse...or neglect**...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law

Identifying Physical Abuse



- **Summary**
 - Any non-accidental (i.e., intentional) injury to a child.
 - Includes reckless acts (e.g., driving intoxicated with a child in the vehicle).
- **Pictures of physical abuse – next five slides.**

*“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...**abuse...or neglect**...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law

Examples of Physical Abuse



*“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...**abuse...or neglect**...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law

Examples of Physical Abuse



*“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...**abuse...or neglect**...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law

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Mandatory Reporting Law

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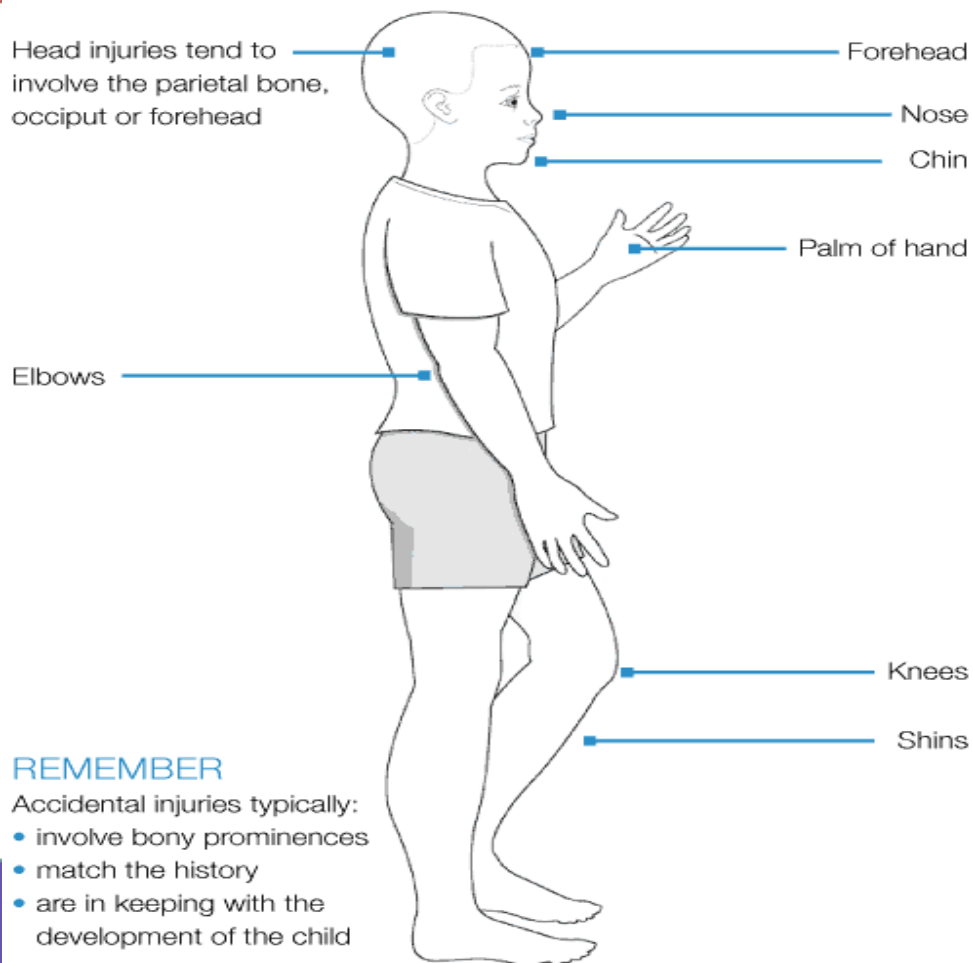
Mandatory Reporting Law

Examples of Physical Abuse



*“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...**abuse...or neglect**...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*

Typical features of accidental injuries



REMEMBER

- Accidental injuries typically:
- involve bony prominences
 - match the history
 - are in keeping with the development of the child



Typical features of non-accidental injuries (injuries that should raise concerns)



Ears – especially pinch marks involving both sides of the ear

The “triangle of safety” (ears, side of face, and neck, top of shoulders): accidental injuries in this area are unusual

Inner aspects of arms

Back and side of trunk, except directly over the bony spine

Black eyes, especially if bilateral

Soft tissues of cheeks

Intra-oral injuries

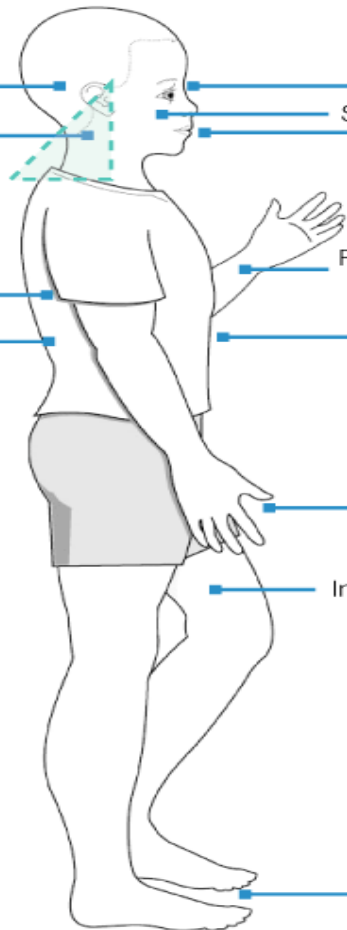
Forearms when raised to protect self

Chest and abdomen

Any groin or genital injury

Inner aspects of thighs

Soles of feet



REMEMBER

Concerns are raised by:

- injuries to both sides of the body
- injuries to soft tissue
- injuries with particular patterns
- any injury that doesn't fit the explanation
- delays in presentation
- untreated injuries



Mandatory Reporting Law

Physical Abuse Behavioral Indicators



Physical Indicators

Bruises or welts

Identifiable shape or object (e.g., belt or cord)

Burns

Fractures

Bald patches on scalp

Behaviors

Fearful, aggressive, withdrawn

Frightened of caretakers and/or afraid to go home

Needy for affection

Wary of adult contact

Manipulative

Unable to focus

Current behavior inconsistent with past behavior.



Sexual Abuse Cases You are not mandated to report if...



- BOTH parties are 14, 15, 16, or 17
- There is nothing to indicate sexual conduct is other than consensual
- But you may report & immunity will apply





Mandatory Reporting Law



Sexual Abuse Defined

- A.R.S. § 13-1404 – Sexual Abuse
 - “[I]ntentionally or knowingly engaging in sexual contact with any person who is fifteen years of age or younger without consent...”

*“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...**abuse...or neglect**...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law



Sexual Abuse Defined

- A.R.S. § 13-1405 – Sexual Conduct with a Minor
 - “[I]ntentionally or knowingly engaging in sexual intercourse or oral sexual contact with any person who is under eighteen years of age.”

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Sexual Abuse Defined

- A.R.S. § 13-1406 – Sexual Assault
 - “[I]ntentionally or knowingly engaging in sexual intercourse or oral sexual contact with any person without consent of such person.”

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Sexual Abuse Defined

- A.R.S. § 13-1410 – Molestation
 - “[I]ntentionally or knowingly engaging in or causing a person to engage in sexual contact...with a child who is under fifteen years of age.”

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Sexual Abuse Defined

- A.R.S. § 13-3212 – Child Prostitution
 - “[K]nowingly... [c]ausing a minor to engage in prostitution.”

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Sexual Abuse Defined

- A.R.S. § 13-3552 – Commercial Sexual Exploitation
 - “[K]nowingly...using, employing, persuading, enticing, inducing or coercing a minor to engage in exploitive exhibition or sexual conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction or live act depicting such conduct.”

*“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...**abuse...or neglect**...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Mandatory Reporting Law



Sexual Abuse Defined

- A.R.S. § 13-3553 – Sexual Exploitation
 - “[K]nowingly...recording, filming, photographing, developing or duplicating any visual depiction in which a minor is engaged in exploitive exhibition or other sexual conduct.”

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law

Identifying Sexual Abuse



- **Summary**

- Any sexual act between an adult and minor or between minors when one exerts power over the other.
- Includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or the Internet.

*“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...**abuse...or neglect**...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”*



Identifying Child Abuse

Sexual Abuse Behavioral Indicators

Physical Indicators

Difficulty walking or sitting

Pain, swelling, itching, bruises, bleeding, tears

Pain when urinating and/or discharge

Sexually transmitted diseases

Excessive masturbation

Behaviors

Sexual knowledge inappropriate for age and/or acting out

Eating disorders

Aggression

Substance abuse

Self-abusive behavior

Current behavior inconsistent with past behavior.



Mandatory Reporting Law



Emotional Abuse Defined

- A.R.S. § 8-201(2)
 - “[I]nfliction of or allowing another person to cause serious emotional damage as evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or untoward aggressive behavior and which emotional damage is diagnosed by a medical doctor or psychologist and is caused by the acts or omissions of an individual who has the care, custody and control of a child.”

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law

Emotional Abuse Behavioral Indicators



- Visible signs of emotional abuse can be difficult to detect.
 - Learning disabilities and/or poor social skills
 - Sleep disorders
 - Unusually fearful
 - Stuttering and/or baby talk
 - Unresponsive or hyperactive

Current behavior inconsistent with past behavior.



Mandatory Reporting Law



Neglect Defined

- A.R.S. § 8-201(24)
 - “The inability or unwillingness of a parent, guardian or custodian...to provide...supervision, food, clothing, shelter or medical care if that inability or unwillingness causes unreasonable risk of harm to the child’s health or welfare...”

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Identifying Neglect

- **Key Factors**
 - Failure to provide basic needs must be chronic.
 - Poverty and lifestyle choices are not signs of neglect.

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Mandatory Reporting Law

Neglect Behavioral Indicators



- Begging for or stealing food
- Difficulty with hearing or vision
- Poor coordination
- Acting out
- Frequent visits to the school nurse

Current behavior inconsistent with past behavior.

Witnessing Domestic Violence



DCS will take reports on

- **Children involved in some way in the incident of domestic violence**
- **Children present and witnessing the incident of domestic violence**
- **The violence presents some danger to the children even if they are not in the same room**



**Typically these scenarios will be taken as potentials.



Mandatory Reporting Law



Reasonable Immediacy

- Reasonable immediacy refers to:
 - Professionally possible.
 - Safe and practical.
 - Sense of urgency.
- Note: Contact law enforcement and DCS during school hours. Do not wait for end of day if suspected abuser lives at the child's home.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Contacts

- Department of Child Safety
 - Hotline: 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445)
 - Non-emergency website:
<https://dcs.az.gov/report-child-abuse>
- Law enforcement: Non-emergency number or 911.
- Note: Non-emergency concerns are those in which a child is not at immediate risk of harm.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law

Report or Cause Reports to be Made



- To report, gather the following information:
 - The child's name and address.
 - The caregiver's name and address.
 - The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect.
 - Any other helpful and relevant information.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Reporting to DCS

- When reporting to DCS:
 - Document the DCS Hotline Specialist's name.
 - Document the Field Unit Supervisor's name who will receive the report. If requested, follow-up with this person.
 - If a DCS case worker arrives at your site, document his/her name.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Hotline Facts

Statewide Centralized in 1994

Operable 24/7, 365 days a year

The DCS Hotline averages 155,000+ inbound calls annually

Almost 30% of the calls to the Hotline results in a DCS report
Approximately 60% of communications are actionable by the Department

The Online Reporting Service averages about 330 submissions per month
About 35% result in a DCS report

When school is in session, the Hotline averages 535 calls per day Monday - Friday

On the weekends, the Hotline averages 235 calls per day



Not Within DCS Authority



Administrative Rules R21-3-202

- Educational neglect
- Delinquency for children age 8+
- Absent parents who made appropriate arrangements for a child's care
- A child receiving medical treatment from an accredited Christian Science Practitioner or any other religious or spiritual healer
- Unless a child's health is endangered or there is imminent risk of harm
- Minor hygiene concerns
- Custody or visitation disputes



Mandatory Reporting Law

Reporting to Law Enforcement



- When reporting to law enforcement:
 - Document the dispatcher's name.
 - Ask if and when a patrol officer is expected to respond.
 - Document the name and badge number of the patrol officer upon arrival.
 - Document the Department Report (“DR”) number assigned to the case.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Recommendation: See Protocol, Ch. VIII

- Always call law enforcement when there is a reasonable belief that a child is the victim of abuse or neglect. Additionally, call DCS when the alleged offender has care, custody, or control of the child.
- When in doubt, call both law enforcement and DCS.

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Confidentiality in Reporting

- Do not notify the parent/caregiver that you have contacted law enforcement or DCS.
- Mandatory reporters must maintain confidentiality of all information regarding the abuse and refer all inquiries to law enforcement and/or DCS.
 - See Protocol, Ch. VIII, § II(D).

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law

Reporter Immunity



- A.R.S. § 13-3620(J)
 - “A person who furnishes a report, information or records...is immune from any civil or criminal liability by reason of that action *unless* the person acted with malice or unless the person has been charged with or is suspected of abusing or neglecting the child or children in question.”

“Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of...abuse...or neglect...shall immediately report or cause reports to be made...to a peace officer...[or] to the department of child safety.”



Mandatory Reporting Law



Failure to Report

- **Class 6 Felony**
 - Failure to report a sexual offense
 - Up to 2 years in prison
 - \$150,000 fine (83% surcharge)
- **Class 1 Misdemeanor**
 - Failure to report any other type of abuse
 - Up to 6 months in jail
 - \$2,500 fine (83% surcharge)

• See A.R.S. § 13-3620 (O).



Records Release to LE/DCS



- Per A.R.S. § 13-3620 (G), Child records from this incident **must be released** to law enforcement and/or DCS upon their written request and signature on a release form
- The parent/guardian **does not** have to give permission for this release
- The release of records should also be **expeditious** as police and DCS will need the records for their investigations



Questions/Comments

Contact Information



Children's Justice Coordinator
Childhelp, Inc.

Phone: 602-271-4500 ex 288

E-mail: mawerbuch@childhelp.org

- Post-test
- Trainer Evaluation
- Certificate of Compliance