

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



November 1, 2018

CSSP LETTER: 18-09

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
 ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

Reason for this Transmittal

- State Law, Regulation and/or Change
- Federal Law, Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Change
- Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by DCSS

SUBJECT: MANDATED REPORTER; DEFINITION OF CASEWORKER

REFERENCE: This letter supersedes Child Support Services Letter 18-06 dated September 17, 2018. Relevant statutes include Penal Code (PC) §§ 11165, 11166, 11167, and Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 303.20(e)(1).

PURPOSE: All individuals who are designated as mandated reporters are required by law to report known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. The intent of this letter is to provide guidance to local child support agencies (LCSAs) in: 1) identifying who a mandated reporter is, and 2) communicating the training and acknowledgement requirements for mandated reporters.

BACKGROUND: Guidance on those classified as mandated reporters include:

PC § 11165.7(a)(18) a district attorney investigator, inspector, or LCSA caseworker, unless the investigator, inspector, or caseworker is working with an attorney appointed pursuant to section 317 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to represent a minor.

Title 45 CFR § 303.20(e)(1) defines caseworker as any person who has decision-making authority over individual cases on a day-to-day basis and includes, but is not limited to, such designations as intake worker, eligibility technician, caseworker, and social worker.

Caseworker is loosely defined under CFR and there is no further clarification under state law, leading to uncertainty as to who is a mandated reporter under the law.

POLICY: All child support employees subject to the definition of caseworker shall participate in mandated reporter training. An LCSA caseworker shall be defined as an individual, regardless of title or classification, who has direct contact with case participants in performing Title IV-D case functions and duties involving case intake, establishment, collections, and distribution of child support within the LCSA. Direct contact shall be defined as any activity that may allow an individual to directly observe or reasonably suspect child abuse and/or neglect. Typically, this is through direct

observation of the child; however, reasonable suspicion can be gained through other channels as well, such as written correspondence or via telephone conversation. Per PC § 11166(a)(1), any “reasonable suspicion is sufficient” if it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain that suspicion given the facts.

An LCSA attorney is not included under either definition and is not considered a mandated reporter. A caseworker who performs fiscal and financial case preparation and management for a child support case shall only be subject to this definition if there is direct contact with case participants.

ACTION: All child support employees subject to the definition of caseworker, as outlined above, shall participate in mandated reporter training.

Training is to be completed upon hire for new staff. Current staff that have not completed mandated reporter training, and as a result have not signed the Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status, shall complete the mandated reporter training and sign the Acknowledgement. However, if the staff member did not receive training prior to signing the Acknowledgement they will need to complete the training and update their Acknowledgement accordingly.

Current staff that have satisfied the training requirement and signed the Acknowledgement are not required by the Department of Child Support Services to repeat training and no additional actions are necessary. Any future retraining related to mandated reporters will be at the discretion of the of IV-D Director. The LCSA must maintain and keep a record of signed Acknowledgements.

In accordance with PC § 11166, the mandated reporter must immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, make an initial report by telephone. Within 36 hours of the initial report, the mandated reporter must prepare and submit a written report concerning the incident to a proper agency, as detailed in PC § 11165.9.

RELEVANT MATERIAL/ATTACHMENT: This letter includes four attachments related to the required mandated reporter training:

- Instructions for accessing the online self-study training offered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). It is at the discretion of the IV-D Director whether the LCSA will utilize the online self-study course, their own in-house mandated reporter training curriculum, or a combination of the two. Any in-house mandated reporter training curriculum must remain current. LCSA caseworkers may take the four hour “General Training” module when utilizing the CDSS online self-study training.
- Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status Template. LCSAs shall utilize this template to document their staffs’ acknowledgement of the training

requirements and their understanding that they have a legal duty to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect.

The modifiable Acknowledgment template is located on Child Support Central at: <https://central.dcss.ca.gov/ReferenceMaterial/Legislation/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

- California PC §§ 11165.7, 11166, and 11167.
- Suspected Child Abuse Report Form and Instructions (Form BCIA 8572). This form is used by mandated reporters to notify a reporting agency (local law enforcement, county probation or county welfare department) about suspected cases of child abuse. This form may also be used to cross-report to another reporting agency. This form is to be submitted within 36 hours of the initial report made by telephone. A pdf-fillable version of the form can be found on the State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General website at <https://oag.ca.gov/childabuse/forms>.

CONTACT: If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Allen Alexander, Policy & Program Branch at (916) 464-5883 or send an email to policy.branch@dcss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

o/s

VICKIE K. CONTRERAS
Deputy Director
Child Support Services Division

Attachments



Mandated Reporter Training

General Training Module

Home

Introduction

Lesson 1

Lesson 2

Lesson 3

Lesson 4

FAQ/Certificate

Glossary

[Join Email List](#)

Privacy by  SafeSubscribeSM



Welcome to the General Training Section

The General Training Module for Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training- California is a four hour training that includes 4 sections. Each section will conclude with practice test questions or vignettes.

[This is not the training for School Personnel, To access that Training click Here.](#)

[This is not the training for Child Care Workers, To access that Training click Here.](#)

At the conclusion of the training you will take a final exam which will test the information that you have learned during the training. Upon scoring an 80% or higher you will be able to fill out and print your Certificate of Completion.

This course meets the qualifications for up to 4.0* hours of continuing education for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and/or LEPs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Provider approved by CEPA Provider #75651.

This course meets the qualifications for 4.0 hours of continuing education for BRN as required by the California Board of Registered Nursing, provider #CEP 14264.

For people using Ipad's or Smart Phones: To obtain a valid certificate you will need to print out your certificate from our website. Please make sure you are connected to a printer when taking the test.

[Click here to begin the training](#)

County Logo

Department of Child Support Services
County Name Here
California

Address field 1
Address field 2
Phone field
Fax field

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANDATED REPORTER STATUS AND LEGAL DUTY TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

California law (Penal Code § 11165.7, 11166, and 11167) requires people employed in certain positions to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect. A local child support agency case worker is such a position, known in the law as a “mandated reporter.” The law requires that you, as a mandated reporter, sign this statement acknowledging your legal reporting obligations as summarized in the training curriculum and that you agree to comply with them.

MANDATED REPORTING COORDINATOR

Each Local Child Support Agency (LCSA) has a designated Mandated Reporting Coordinator (MRC) to assist you in preparing a report, if necessary.

MANDATED REPORTING COORDINATOR (MRC) CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name	
Title	
Department	
Phone	
Email	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANDATED REPORTER

I have read the above statement and agree to comply with the applicable reporting requirements. I acknowledge being provided with copies of Penal Code sections 11165.7, 11166, and 11167.

MANDATED REPORTER CONTACT INFORMATION	
Employee's Name	
Title	
Department	
Phone	
Email	

Print this 'ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANDATED REPORTER STATUS AND LEGAL DUTY TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT' **then sign and date below.**

Employee Signature	
Date	

NOTE: The original signed version of this Acknowledgement is to be retained in the Employee's Official Personnel File. The Employee must be given a copy.



SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT (Pursuant to Penal Code section 11166)

To Be Completed by Mandated Child Abuse Reporters
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

CASE NAME: _____

CASE NUMBER: _____

A. REPORTING PARTY	NAME OF MANDATED REPORTER			TITLE			MANDATED REPORTER CATEGORY			
	REPORTER'S BUSINESS/AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS						DID MANDATED REPORTER WITNESS THE INCIDENT?			
	REPORTER'S TELEPHONE (DAYTIME)		SIGNATURE				TODAY'S DATE			
B. REPORT NOTIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW ENFORCEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY PROBATION <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY WELFARE / CPS (Child Protective Services)			AGENCY						
	ADDRESS						DATE/TIME OF PHONE CALL			
	OFFICIAL CONTACTED - NAME AND TITLE						TELEPHONE			
C. VICTIM One report per victim	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)				BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE		SEX	ETHNICITY		
	ADDRESS						TELEPHONE			
	PRESENT LOCATION OF VICTIM				SCHOOL		CLASS		GRADE	
	PHYSICALLY DISABLED?		DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED?		OTHER DISABILITY (SPECIFY)			PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN HOME		
	IN FOSTER CARE?		IF VICTIM WAS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE AT TIME OF INCIDENT, CHECK TYPE OF CARE:				TYPE OF ABUSE (CHECK ONE OR MORE):			
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> DAY CARE <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD CARE CENTER <input type="checkbox"/> FOSTER FAMILY HOME <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY FRIEND <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP HOME OR INSTITUTION <input type="checkbox"/> RELATIVE'S HOME				<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL <input type="checkbox"/> SEXUAL <input type="checkbox"/> NEGLECT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____			
RELATIONSHIP TO SUSPECT				PHOTOS TAKEN?		DID THE INCIDENT RESULT IN THIS VICTIM'S DEATH?				
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNK				
VICTIM'S SIBLINGS	NAME		BIRTHDATE	SEX	ETHNICITY	NAME		BIRTHDATE	SEX	ETHNICITY
	1. _____					3. _____				
2. _____						4. _____				
D. INVOLVED PARTIES PARENTS/GUARDIANS	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)				BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE		SEX	ETHNICITY		
	ADDRESS						HOME PHONE		BUSINESS PHONE	
	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)				BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE		SEX	ETHNICITY		
	ADDRESS						HOME PHONE		BUSINESS PHONE	
SUSPECT	SUSPECT'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)				BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE		SEX	ETHNICITY		
	ADDRESS						TELEPHONE			
	OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION									
E. INCIDENT INFORMATION	IF NECESSARY, ATTACH EXTRA SHEET(S) OR OTHER FORM(S) AND CHECK THIS BOX <input type="checkbox"/> IF MULTIPLE VICTIMS, INDICATE NUMBER: _____									
	DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT				PLACE OF INCIDENT					
	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (What victim(s) said/what the mandated reporter observed/what person accompanying the victim(s) said/similar or past incident's involving the victim(s) or suspect)									

DO NOT submit a copy of this form to the Department of Justice (DOJ). The investigating agency is required under Penal Code section 11169 to submit to DOJ a Child Abuse or Severe Neglect Indexing Form BCIA 8583 if (1) an active investigation was conducted and (2) the incident was determined to be substantiated.



SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT (Pursuant to Penal Code section 11166)

DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF FORM BCIA 8572

All Penal Code (PC) references are located in Article 2.5 of the California PC. This article is known as the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA). The provisions of CANRA may be viewed at: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml> (specify "Penal Code" and search for sections 11164-11174.3). A mandated reporter must complete and submit form BCIA 8572 even if some of the requested information is not known. (PC section 11167(a).)

I. MANDATED CHILD ABUSE REPORTERS

Mandated child abuse reporters include all those individuals and entities listed in PC section 11165.7.

II. TO WHOM REPORTS ARE TO BE MADE ("DESIGNATED AGENCIES")

Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be made by mandated reporters to any police department or sheriff's department (not including a school district police or security department), the county probation department (if designated by the county to receive mandated reports), or the county welfare department. (PC section 11165.9.)

III. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Any mandated reporter who has knowledge of or observes a child, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect shall report such suspected incident of abuse or neglect to a designated agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and shall prepare and send a written report thereof **within 36 hours** of receiving the information concerning the incident. (PC section 11166(a).)

No mandated reporter who reports a suspected incident of child abuse or neglect shall be held civilly or criminally liable for any report required or authorized by CANRA. Any other person reporting a known or suspected incident of child abuse or neglect shall not incur civil or criminal liability as a result of any report authorized by CANRA unless it can be proven the report was false and the person knew it was false or made the report with reckless disregard of its truth or falsity. (PC section 11172(a).)

IV. INSTRUCTIONS

SECTION A – REPORTING PARTY: Enter the mandated reporter's name, title, category (from PC section 11165.7), business/agency name and address, daytime telephone number, and today's date. Check yes/no whether the mandated reporter witnessed the incident. The signature area is for either the mandated reporter or, if the report is telephoned in by the mandated reporter, the person taking the telephoned report.

IV. INSTRUCTIONS (*continued*)

SECTION B – REPORT NOTIFICATION: Complete the name and address of the designated agency notified, the date/time of the phone call, and the name, title, and telephone number of the official contacted.

SECTION C – VICTIM (One Report per Victim): Enter the victim's name, birthdate or approximate age, sex, ethnicity, address, telephone number, present location, and, where applicable, enter the school, class (indicate the teacher's name or room number), and grade. List the primary language spoken in the victim's home. Check the appropriate yes/no box to indicate whether the victim may have a developmental disability or physical disability and specify any other apparent disability. Check the appropriate yes/no box to indicate whether the victim is in foster care, and check the appropriate box to indicate the type of care if the victim was in out-of-home care. Check the appropriate box to indicate the type of abuse. List the victim's relationship to the suspect. Check the appropriate yes/no box to indicate whether photos of the injuries were taken. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether the incident resulted in the victim's death.

SECTION D – INVOLVED PARTIES: Enter the requested information for Victim's Siblings, Victim's Parents/Guardians, and Suspect. Attach extra sheet(s) if needed (provide the requested information for each individual on the attached sheet(s)).

SECTION E – INCIDENT INFORMATION: If multiple victims, indicate the number and submit a form for each victim. Enter date/time and place of the incident. Provide a narrative of the incident. Attach extra sheet(s) if needed.

V. DISTRIBUTION

Reporting Party: After completing form BCIA 8572, retain a copy for your records and submit copies to the designated agency.

Designated Agency: **Within 36 hours** of receipt of form BCIA 8572, the initial designated agency will send a copy of the completed form to the district attorney and any additional designated agencies in compliance with PC sections 11166(j) and 11166(k).

ETHNICITY CODES

1 Alaskan Native	6 Caribbean	11 Guamanian	16 Korean	22 Polynesian	27 White-Armenian
2 American Indian	7 Central American	12 Hawaiian	17 Laotian	23 Samoan	28 White-Central American
3 Asian Indian	8 Chinese	13 Hispanic	18 Mexican	24 South American	29 White-European
4 Black	9 Ethiopian	14 Hmong	19 Other Asian	25 Vietnamese	30 White-Middle Eastern
5 Cambodian	10 Filipino	15 Japanese	21 Other Pacific Islander	26 White	31 White-Romanian



PENAL CODE - PEN

PART 4. PREVENTION OF CRIMES AND APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS [11006 - 14315] (Part 4 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1385.)

TITLE 1. INVESTIGATION AND CONTROL OF CRIMES AND CRIMINALS [11006 - 11460] (Title 1 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1385.)

CHAPTER 2. Control of Crimes and Criminals [11150 - 11199.5] (Chapter 2 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 70.)

ARTICLE 2.5. Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act [11164 - 11174.3] (Heading of Article 2.5 amended by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1444, Sec. 1.)

(a) As used in this article, "mandated reporter" is defined as any of the following:

11165.7. (1) A teacher.

(2) An instructional aide.

(3) A teacher's aide or teacher's assistant employed by a public or private school.

(4) A classified employee of a public school.

(5) An administrative officer or supervisor of child welfare and attendance, or a certificated pupil personnel employee of a public or private school.

(6) An administrator of a public or private day camp.

(7) An administrator or employee of a public or private youth center, youth recreation program, or youth organization.

(8) An administrator, board member, or employee of a public or private organization whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children, including a foster family agency.

(9) An employee of a county office of education or the State Department of Education whose duties bring the employee into contact with children on a regular basis.

(10) A licensee, an administrator, or an employee of a licensed community care or child day care facility.

(11) A Head Start program teacher.

(12) A licensing worker or licensing evaluator employed by a licensing agency, as defined in Section 11165.11.

(13) A public assistance worker.

(14) An employee of a child care institution, including, but not limited to, foster parents, group home personnel, and personnel of residential care facilities.

(15) A social worker, probation officer, or parole officer.

(16) An employee of a school district police or security department.

- (17) A person who is an administrator or presenter of, or a counselor in, a child abuse prevention program in a public or private school.
- (18) A district attorney investigator, inspector, or local child support agency caseworker, unless the investigator, inspector, or caseworker is working with an attorney appointed pursuant to Section 317 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to represent a minor.
- (19) A peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2, who is not otherwise described in this section.
- (20) A firefighter, except for volunteer firefighters.
- (21) A physician and surgeon, psychiatrist, psychologist, dentist, resident, intern, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, dental hygienist, optometrist, marriage and family therapist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, or any other person who is currently licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code.
- (22) An emergency medical technician I or II, paramedic, or other person certified pursuant to Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797) of the Health and Safety Code.
- (23) A psychological assistant registered pursuant to Section 2913 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (24) A marriage and family therapist trainee, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 4980.03 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (25) An unlicensed associate marriage and family therapist registered under Section 4980.44 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (26) A state or county public health employee who treats a minor for venereal disease or any other condition.
- (27) A coroner.
- (28) A medical examiner or other person who performs autopsies.
- (29) A commercial film and photographic print or image processor as specified in subdivision (e) of Section 11166. As used in this article, "commercial film and photographic print or image processor" means a person who develops exposed photographic film into negatives, slides, or prints, or who makes prints from negatives or slides, or who prepares, publishes, produces, develops, duplicates, or prints any representation of information, data, or an image, including, but not limited to, any film, filmstrip, photograph, negative, slide, photocopy, videotape, video laser disc, computer hardware, computer software, computer floppy disk, data storage medium, CD-ROM, computer-generated equipment, or computer-generated image, for compensation. The term includes any employee of that person; it does not include a person who develops film or makes prints or images for a public agency.
- (30) A child visitation monitor. As used in this article, "child visitation monitor" means a person who, for financial compensation, acts as a monitor of a visit between a child and another person when the monitoring of that visit has been ordered by a court of law.
- (31) An animal control officer or humane society officer. For the purposes of this article, the following terms have the following meanings:
- (A) "Animal control officer" means a person employed by a city, county, or city and county for the purpose of enforcing animal control laws or regulations.
- (B) "Humane society officer" means a person appointed or employed by a public or private entity as a humane officer who is qualified pursuant to Section 14502 or 14503 of the Corporations Code.

- (32) A clergy member, as specified in subdivision (d) of Section 11166. As used in this article, “clergy member” means a priest, minister, rabbi, religious practitioner, or similar functionary of a church, temple, or recognized denomination or organization.
- (33) Any custodian of records of a clergy member, as specified in this section and subdivision (d) of Section 11166.
- (34) An employee of any police department, county sheriff’s department, county probation department, or county welfare department.
- (35) An employee or volunteer of a Court Appointed Special Advocate program, as defined in Rule 5.655 of the California Rules of Court.
- (36) A custodial officer, as defined in Section 831.5.
- (37) A person providing services to a minor child under Section 12300 or 12300.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (38) An alcohol and drug counselor. As used in this article, an “alcohol and drug counselor” is a person providing counseling, therapy, or other clinical services for a state licensed or certified drug, alcohol, or drug and alcohol treatment program. However, alcohol or drug abuse, or both alcohol and drug abuse, is not, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect.
- (39) A clinical counselor trainee, as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 4999.12 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (40) An associate professional clinical counselor registered under Section 4999.42 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (41) An employee or administrator of a public or private postsecondary educational institution, whose duties bring the administrator or employee into contact with children on a regular basis, or who supervises those whose duties bring the administrator or employee into contact with children on a regular basis, as to child abuse or neglect occurring on that institution’s premises or at an official activity of, or program conducted by, the institution. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as altering the lawyer-client privilege as set forth in Article 3 (commencing with Section 950) of Chapter 4 of Division 8 of the Evidence Code.
- (42) An athletic coach, athletic administrator, or athletic director employed by any public or private school that provides any combination of instruction for kindergarten, or grades 1 to 12, inclusive.
- (43) (A) A commercial computer technician as specified in subdivision (e) of Section 11166. As used in this article, “commercial computer technician” means a person who works for a company that is in the business of repairing, installing, or otherwise servicing a computer or computer component, including, but not limited to, a computer part, device, memory storage or recording mechanism, auxiliary storage recording or memory capacity, or any other material relating to the operation and maintenance of a computer or computer network system, for a fee. An employer who provides an electronic communications service or a remote computing service to the public shall be deemed to comply with this article if that employer complies with Section 2258A of Title 18 of the United States Code.
- (B) An employer of a commercial computer technician may implement internal procedures for facilitating reporting consistent with this article. These procedures may direct employees who are mandated reporters under this paragraph to report materials described in subdivision (e) of Section 11166 to an employee who is designated by the employer to receive the reports. An employee who is designated to receive reports under this subparagraph shall be a commercial computer technician for purposes of this article. A commercial computer technician who makes a report to the designated employee pursuant to this subparagraph shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this article and shall be subject to the protections afforded to mandated reporters, including, but not limited to, those protections afforded by Section 11172.

(44) Any athletic coach, including, but not limited to, an assistant coach or a graduate assistant involved in coaching, at public or private postsecondary educational institutions.

(45) An individual certified by a licensed foster family agency as a certified family home, as defined in Section 1506 of the Health and Safety Code.

(46) An individual approved as a resource family, as defined in Section 1517 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 16519.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (35) of subdivision (a), volunteers of public or private organizations whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of children are not mandated reporters but are encouraged to obtain training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect and are further encouraged to report known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect to an agency specified in Section 11165.9.

(c) Except as provided in subdivision (d), employers are strongly encouraged to provide their employees who are mandated reporters with training in the duties imposed by this article. This training shall include training in child abuse and neglect identification and training in child abuse and neglect reporting. Whether or not employers provide their employees with training in child abuse and neglect identification and reporting, the employers shall provide their employees who are mandated reporters with the statement required pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 11166.5.

(d) Pursuant to Section 44691 of the Education Code, school districts, county offices of education, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education, and charter schools shall annually train their employees and persons working on their behalf specified in subdivision (a) in the duties of mandated reporters under the child abuse reporting laws. The training shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, training in child abuse and neglect identification and child abuse and neglect reporting.

(e) (1) On and after January 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 1596.8662 of the Health and Safety Code, a child care licensee applicant shall take training in the duties of mandated reporters under the child abuse reporting laws as a condition of licensure, and a child care administrator or an employee of a licensed child day care facility shall take training in the duties of mandated reporters during the first 90 days when he or she is employed by the facility.

(2) A person specified in paragraph (1) who becomes a licensee, administrator, or employee of a licensed child day care facility shall take renewal mandated reporter training every two years following the date on which he or she completed the initial mandated reporter training. The training shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, training in child abuse and neglect identification and child abuse and neglect reporting.

(f) Unless otherwise specifically provided, the absence of training shall not excuse a mandated reporter from the duties imposed by this article.

(g) Public and private organizations are encouraged to provide their volunteers whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of children with training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

(Amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 573, Sec. 77. (SB 800) Effective January 1, 2018.)



PENAL CODE - PEN

PART 4. PREVENTION OF CRIMES AND APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS [11006 - 14315] (*Part 4 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1385.*)

TITLE 1. INVESTIGATION AND CONTROL OF CRIMES AND CRIMINALS [11006 - 11460] (*Title 1 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1385.*)

CHAPTER 2. Control of Crimes and Criminals [11150 - 11199.5] (*Chapter 2 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 70.*)

ARTICLE 2.5. Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act [11164 - 11174.3] (*Heading of Article 2.5 amended by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1444, Sec. 1.*)

11166. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (d), and in Section 11166.05, a mandated reporter shall make a report to an agency specified in Section 11165.9 whenever the mandated reporter, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. The mandated reporter shall make an initial report by telephone to the agency immediately or as soon as is practicably possible, and shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written followup report within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. The mandated reporter may include with the report any nonprivileged documentary evidence the mandated reporter possesses relating to the incident.

(1) For purposes of this article, “reasonable suspicion” means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain 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 or neglect. “Reasonable suspicion” does not require certainty that child abuse or neglect has occurred nor does it require a specific medical indication of child abuse or neglect; any “reasonable suspicion” is sufficient. For purposes of this article, the pregnancy of a minor does not, in and of itself, constitute a basis for a reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse.

(2) The agency shall be notified and a report shall be prepared and sent, faxed, or electronically transmitted even if the child has expired, regardless of whether or not the possible abuse was a factor contributing to the death, and even if suspected child abuse was discovered during an autopsy.

(3) A report made by a mandated reporter pursuant to this section shall be known as a mandated report.

(b) If, after reasonable efforts, a mandated reporter is unable to submit an initial report by telephone, he or she shall immediately or as soon as is practicably possible, by fax or electronic transmission, make a one-time automated written report on the form prescribed by the Department of Justice, and shall also be available to respond to a telephone followup call by the agency with which he or she filed the report. A mandated reporter who files a one-time automated written report because he or she was unable to submit an initial report by telephone is not required to submit a written followup report.

(1) The one-time automated written report form prescribed by the Department of Justice shall be clearly identifiable so that it is not mistaken for a standard written followup report. In addition, the automated one-time report shall contain a

section that allows the mandated reporter to state the reason the initial telephone call was not able to be completed. The reason for the submission of the one-time automated written report in lieu of the procedure prescribed in subdivision (a) shall be captured in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS). The department shall work with stakeholders to modify reporting forms and the CWS/CMS as is necessary to accommodate the changes enacted by these provisions.

(2) This subdivision shall not become operative until the CWS/CMS is updated to capture the information prescribed in this subdivision.

(3) This subdivision shall become inoperative three years after this subdivision becomes operative or on January 1, 2009, whichever occurs first.

(4) On the inoperative date of these provisions, a report shall be submitted to the counties and the Legislature by the State Department of Social Services that reflects the data collected from automated one-time reports indicating the reasons stated as to why the automated one-time report was filed in lieu of the initial telephone report.

(5) Nothing in this section shall supersede the requirement that a mandated reporter first attempt to make a report via telephone, or that agencies specified in Section 11165.9 accept reports from mandated reporters and other persons as required.

(c) A mandated reporter who fails to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect as required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months confinement in a county jail or by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by both that imprisonment and fine. If a mandated reporter intentionally conceals his or her failure to report an incident known by the mandated reporter to be abuse or severe neglect under this section, the failure to report is a continuing offense until an agency specified in Section 11165.9 discovers the offense.

(d) (1) A clergy member who acquires knowledge or a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect during a penitential communication is not subject to subdivision (a). For the purposes of this subdivision, "penitential communication" means a communication, intended to be in confidence, including, but not limited to, a sacramental confession, made to a clergy member who, in the course of the discipline or practice of his or her church, denomination, or organization, is authorized or accustomed to hear those communications, and under the discipline, tenets, customs, or practices of his or her church, denomination, or organization, has a duty to keep those communications secret.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to modify or limit a clergy member's duty to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect when the clergy member is acting in some other capacity that would otherwise make the clergy member a mandated reporter.

(3) (A) On or before January 1, 2004, a clergy member or any custodian of records for the clergy member may report to an agency specified in Section 11165.9 that the clergy member or any custodian of records for the clergy member, prior to January 1, 1997, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, other than during a penitential communication, acquired knowledge or had a reasonable suspicion that a child had been the victim of sexual abuse and that the clergy member or any custodian of records for the clergy member did not previously report the abuse to an agency specified in Section 11165.9. The provisions of Section 11172 shall apply to all reports made pursuant to this paragraph.

(B) This paragraph shall apply even if the victim of the known or suspected abuse has reached the age of majority by the time the required report is made.

(C) The local law enforcement agency shall have jurisdiction to investigate any report of child abuse made pursuant to this paragraph even if the report is made after the victim has reached the age of majority.

(e) (1) A commercial film, photographic print, or image processor who has knowledge of or observes, within the scope of his or her professional capacity or employment, any film, photograph, videotape, negative, slide, or any representation of information, data, or an image, including, but not limited to, any film, filmstrip, photograph, negative, slide, photocopy, videotape, video laser disc, computer hardware, computer software, computer floppy disk, data storage medium, CD-ROM, computer-generated equipment, or computer-generated image depicting a child under 16 years of age engaged in an act of sexual conduct, shall, immediately or as soon as practicably possible, telephonically report the instance of suspected abuse to the law enforcement agency located in the county in which the images are seen. Within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident, the reporter shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written followup report of the incident with a copy of the image or material attached.

(2) A commercial computer technician who has knowledge of or observes, within the scope of his or her professional capacity or employment, any representation of information, data, or an image, including, but not limited to, any computer hardware, computer software, computer file, computer floppy disk, data storage medium, CD-ROM, computer-generated equipment, or computer-generated image that is retrievable in perceivable form and that is intentionally saved, transmitted, or organized on an electronic medium, depicting a child under 16 years of age engaged in an act of sexual conduct, shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, telephonically report the instance of suspected abuse to the law enforcement agency located in the county in which the images or materials are seen. As soon as practicably possible after receiving the information concerning the incident, the reporter shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written followup report of the incident with a brief description of the images or materials.

(3) For purposes of this article, "commercial computer technician" includes an employee designated by an employer to receive reports pursuant to an established reporting process authorized by subparagraph (B) of paragraph (43) of subdivision (a) of Section 11165.7.

(4) As used in this subdivision, "electronic medium" includes, but is not limited to, a recording, CD-ROM, magnetic disk memory, magnetic tape memory, CD, DVD, thumbdrive, or any other computer hardware or media.

(5) As used in this subdivision, "sexual conduct" means any of the following:

(A) Sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex or between humans and animals.

(B) Penetration of the vagina or rectum by any object.

(C) Masturbation for the purpose of sexual stimulation of the viewer.

(D) Sadoomasochistic abuse for the purpose of sexual stimulation of the viewer.

(E) Exhibition of the genitals, pubic, or rectal areas of a person for the purpose of sexual stimulation of the viewer.

(f) Any mandated reporter who knows or reasonably suspects that the home or institution in which a child resides is unsuitable for the child because of abuse or neglect of the child shall bring the condition to the attention of the agency to which, and at the same time as, he or she makes a report of the abuse or neglect pursuant to subdivision (a).

(g) Any other person who has knowledge of or observes a child whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been a victim of child abuse or neglect may report the known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect to an agency specified in Section 11165.9. For purposes of this section, "any other person" includes a mandated reporter who acts in his or her private capacity and not in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment.

(h) When two or more persons, who are required to report, jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, and when there is agreement among them, the telephone report may be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement and a single report may be made and signed by the selected member of the reporting

team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter make the report.

(i) (1) The reporting duties under this section are individual, and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit the reporting duties, and no person making a report shall be subject to any sanction for making the report. However, internal procedures to facilitate reporting and apprise supervisors and administrators of reports may be established provided that they are not inconsistent with this article. An internal policy shall not direct an employee to allow his or her supervisor to file or process a mandated report under any circumstances.

(2) The internal procedures shall not require any employee required to make reports pursuant to this article to disclose his or her identity to the employer.

(3) Reporting the information regarding a case of possible child abuse or neglect to an employer, supervisor, school principal, school counselor, coworker, or other person shall not be a substitute for making a mandated report to an agency specified in Section 11165.9.

(j) (1) A county probation or welfare department shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, report by telephone, fax, or electronic transmission to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case, to the agency given the responsibility for investigation of cases under Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and to the district attorney's office every known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, as defined in Section 11165.6, except acts or omissions coming within subdivision (b) of Section 11165.2, or reports made pursuant to Section 11165.13 based on risk to a child that relates solely to the inability of the parent to provide the child with regular care due to the parent's substance abuse, which shall be reported only to the county welfare or probation department. A county probation or welfare department also shall send, fax, or electronically transmit a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident to any agency to which it makes a telephone report under this subdivision.

(2) A county probation or welfare department shall immediately, and in no case in more than 24 hours, report to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case after receiving information that a child or youth who is receiving child welfare services has been identified as the victim of commercial sexual exploitation, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 11165.1.

(3) When a child or youth who is receiving child welfare services and who is reasonably believed to be the victim of, or is at risk of being the victim of, commercial sexual exploitation, as defined in Section 11165.1, is missing or has been abducted, the county probation or welfare department shall immediately, or in no case later than 24 hours from receipt of the information, report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement authority for entry into the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

(k) A law enforcement agency shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, report by telephone, fax, or electronic transmission to the agency given responsibility for investigation of cases under Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code and to the district attorney's office every known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect reported to it, except acts or omissions coming within subdivision (b) of Section 11165.2, which shall be reported only to the county welfare or probation department. A law enforcement agency shall report to the county welfare or probation department every known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect reported to it which is alleged to have occurred as a result of the action of a person responsible for the child's welfare, or as the result of the failure of a person responsible for the child's welfare to adequately protect the minor from abuse when the person responsible for the child's welfare knew or reasonably should have known that the minor was in danger of abuse. A law enforcement

agency also shall send, fax, or electronically transmit a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident to any agency to which it makes a telephone report under this subdivision.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 850, Sec. 5. (AB 1001) Effective January 1, 2017.)



PENAL CODE - PEN

PART 4. PREVENTION OF CRIMES AND APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS [11006 - 14315] (*Part 4 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1385.*)

TITLE 1. INVESTIGATION AND CONTROL OF CRIMES AND CRIMINALS [11006 - 11460] (*Title 1 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1385.*)

CHAPTER 2. Control of Crimes and Criminals [11150 - 11199.5] (*Chapter 2 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 70.*)

ARTICLE 2.5. Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act [11164 - 11174.3] (*Heading of Article 2.5 amended by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1444, Sec. 1.*)

(a) Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect pursuant to Section 11166 or Section 11166.05 shall include the name, business address, and telephone number of the mandated reporter; the capacity that makes the person a mandated reporter; and the information that gave rise to the reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect and the source or sources of that information. If a report is made, the following information, if known, shall also be included in the report: the child's name, the child's address, present location, and, if applicable, school, grade, and class; the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the child's parents or guardians; and the name, address, telephone number, and other relevant personal information about the person or persons who might have abused or neglected the child. The mandated reporter shall make a report even if some of this information is not known or is uncertain to him or her.

(b) Information relevant to the incident of child abuse or neglect and information relevant to a report made pursuant to Section 11166.05 may be given to an investigator from an agency that is investigating the known or suspected case of child abuse or neglect.

(c) Information relevant to the incident of child abuse or neglect, including the investigation report and other pertinent materials, and information relevant to a report made pursuant to Section 11166.05 may be given to the licensing agency when it is investigating a known or suspected case of child abuse or neglect.

(d) (1) The identity of all persons who report under this article shall be confidential and disclosed only among agencies receiving or investigating mandated reports, to the prosecutor in a criminal prosecution or in an action initiated under Section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code arising from alleged child abuse, or to counsel appointed pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 317 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or to the county counsel or prosecutor in a proceeding under Part 4 (commencing with Section 7800) of Division 12 of the Family Code or Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or to a licensing agency when abuse or neglect in out-of-home care is reasonably suspected, or when those persons waive confidentiality, or by court order.

(2) No agency or person listed in this subdivision shall disclose the identity of any person who reports under this article to that person's employer, except with the employee's consent or by court order.

(e) Notwithstanding the confidentiality requirements of this section, a representative of a child protective services agency performing an investigation that results from a report of suspected child abuse or neglect made pursuant to

Section 11166 or Section 11166.05, at the time of the initial contact with the individual who is subject to the investigation, shall advise the individual of the complaints or allegations against him or her, in a manner that is consistent with laws protecting the identity of the reporter under this article.

(f) Persons who may report pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 11166 are not required to include their names.

(Amended by Stats. 2010, Ch. 95, Sec. 1. (AB 2339) Effective January 1, 2011.)