First Witness Child Advocacy Center

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## Responding to an Abuse Disclosure

Find a safe, quiet place to talk and stay calm

Avoid extremes of emotions. If an adult reacts to a disclosure with anger or sadness, child may shut down and refuse to talk- even if the emotion is not directed at them.

- 2. Let the child know that you believe them, and keep questions to a minimum Let the child tell you their story. It is most import to know WHO did the abuse and WHAT happened. For suspected physical abuse, determine whether the incident left a mark/bruise on the child's body. False disclosures of abuse by children are uncommon.
- Reassure the child that they did the right thing by telling

You can say, "This has happened to other children your age, younger, and older. Nothing about you, or anything that you did, made this happen. I am really proud of you for feeling brave enough to tell me about this.

4. Name who's to blame without vilifying the perpetrator

The perpetrator is responsible for their actions. Abuse is never a child's fault. You can tell children. "What they did was wrong, it is not your fault that that happened. It's an adult's job to keep kids safe and they did not do that. We are going to get them help so they do not hurt anyone else.

Let the child know that you will be reporting the abuse.

If the child is in immediate danger and it is the evening or weekend, call 911. If the child is not in immediate danger, or it is regular business hours, call social services and state that you need to make a mandated report. Follow up verbal reports with written reports within 24 hours.

Make a mandated report and find support for yourself.

Tell the child what they can expect next. You can say, "There are people whose job it is to make sure kids are safe. They might want to talk to you more about what you told me."

IF THE ALLEGED PERPETRATOR IS A PARENT OR PRIMARY CAREGIVER, DO NOT TELL THEM THAT THE CHILD DISCLOSED OR THAT YOU MADE A REPORT.

Call First Witness if you feel you need emotional support and want to speak with an advocate.

# **Howdo You Report Suspected Child Abuse**

**Iowa. Department of Human Services** 

#### **Howdo You Report Suspected Child Abuse:**

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Alan Sussman, Stephan J. Cohen, 1975 Reporting Child Abuse and Child Neglect Anna Henning, 2012 Mandatory Reporting Laws and the Identification of Severe Child Abuse and **Neglect** Ben Mathews, Donald C. Bross, 2015-03-17 This book provides the first comprehensive international coverage of key issues in mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect The book draws on a collection of the foremost scholars in the field as well as clinicians and practice based experts to explore the nature history impact and justifiability of mandatory reporting laws their optimal form legal and conceptual issues and practical issues and challenges for reporters professional educators and governments Key issues in non Western nations are also explored briefly to assess the potential of socio legal responses sex trafficking forced child labour and child marriage The book is of particular value to policy makers educators and opinion leaders in government departments dealing with children and to professionals and organisations who work with children It is also intended to be a key authority for researchers and teachers in the fields of medicine nursing social work education law The California Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting Law ,2003 psychology health and allied health fields Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Kenneth Lau, Kathryn Krase, Richard H. Morse, 2008-12-02 A concise and detailed description of a very complex issue rich in detail and insight Leslie J Temme LCSW School of Social Work Adelphi University A must have resource for practicing professionals and an invaluable teaching tool for social work students This is precisely the book that mandated reporters seek to assist in the reporting process and understanding their legal obligations Keva M Miller PhD LCSW School of Social Work Portland State University In all states social workers are required to report suspected child abuse and neglect and face serious penalties if they fail to do so But not all cases of abuse are obvious Mandated reporters are thus confronted with a host of both legal and ethical quandaries when filing a report What are the responsibilities of mandated reporters What are appropriate grounds for reporting abuse How and when should a report be made Does reporting suspected abuse violate client confidentiality What if my employer encourages me not to report my suspicions Addressing these questions and more this book provides clear definitions of different types of child abuse including physical sexual and emotional and delineates guidelines on how to identify risk factors and signs of child maltreatment The authors also clarify difficult ethical issues including client confidentiality and privileged communication and present numerous case studies and theoretical vignettes culled from their own experiences as social workers This guide will be the one resource mandated reporters and social work students cannot do without **How to Report Suspected** Child Abuse Iowa. Department of Human Services, 1999 Child Abuse .2001 **Recognizing Child Abuse** Douglas J. Besharov, 1990 With special attention paid the unfounded reports former director of the U.S. National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect Douglas J Bersharov shares analysis on the strengths and weakness in America's fight against childhood abuse and neglect Discussing progress made in recognizing and combating child abuse in the late 1990s Recognizing Child Abuse

analyzes what approaches are most successful in the fight against childhood abuse and neglect With recognition of the thousands of children saved from death and serious injury because of these preventative measures Douglas J Bersharov shares reports charts and analysis on how professionals and care takers alike can work to recognize and interfere with unsafe situations for children The California Child Abuse Reporting Law Eliana Gil,1983 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting and Investigation Douglas J. Besharov, 1988 How to Handle Cases of Child Abuse Pasquale De Marco, 2025-04-07 In the face of the heart wrenching reality of child abuse this book offers a beacon of hope and guidance for professionals caregivers and concerned individuals dedicated to protecting vulnerable children With its comprehensive approach this book delves into the complexities of child abuse providing a thorough understanding of its various forms the profound impact it has on young lives and the essential steps for prevention and intervention Written with utmost care and sensitivity this book serves as an invaluable resource for professionals working in child welfare law enforcement healthcare and education It empowers readers with the knowledge and skills necessary to make a positive difference in the lives of abused children offering practical strategies for recognizing signs of abuse conducting effective investigations and implementing safety measures Beyond the immediate response to child abuse cases this book emphasizes the significance of collaboration among professionals and the need for a multidisciplinary approach It highlights the importance of fostering a supportive environment for children ensuring their voices are heard and providing them with the necessary resources for healing and recovery With its in depth analysis of the complex dynamics of child abuse and its far reaching consequences this book aims to raise awareness promote prevention efforts and inspire action from all sectors of society It serves as a vital tool in equipping readers with the knowledge and strategies to make a lasting impact in the fight against this pervasive issue ultimately creating a world where every child can thrive and reach their full potential This book is not only a valuable resource for professionals but also an essential guide for parents educators and community members who play a crucial role in protecting children from harm Its comprehensive coverage of child abuse related topics coupled with its practical guidance makes it an indispensable tool for anyone committed to safeguarding the well being of children If you like this book **Child Abuse and Neglect** I. Lorraine Davis, 1980 write a review A Coordinated Response to Child Abuse and Neglect Diane DePanfilis, Marsha K. Salus, 1994-04 Addresses community prevention identification and treatment efforts Intended to be used by all professionals involved in child protection CPS law enforcement education mental health legal services health care and early childhood professionals Provides general information to anyone who is concerned about the problem of child maltreatment Glossary bibliography and list of resources Model Policy and Rules for Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse Iowa. Department of Public Instruction, 1978 Child Abuse & Neglect State Reporting Laws National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1979 The Nurse's Role in the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect M. Catherine Heindl, Carol A. Krall, Marsha K. Salus, Diane D. Broadhurst, 1979 Child Abuse Report

Pennsylvania. Office of Children and Youth,1990 Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in North Carolina Janet Mason,1996 A Manual for Mandated Reporters Illinois. Department of Children and Family Services,2006 The Mental Health Desk Reference Elizabeth Reynolds Welfel,R. Elliott Ingersoll,2002-04-08 A practical easy to use and comprehensive reference for mental health professionals The Mental Health Desk Reference is the ultimate guide to effective and responsible mental health practice It provides authoritative concise and up to date information from more than seventy experts regarding diagnosis treatment and ethics of practice Each entry summarizes key constructs and terminology associated with the topic major findings from research and specific recommendations on theory and practice Important topics covered include Adjustment disorders and life stress Diagnosis and treatment of adults Diagnosis and treatment of children Crisis intervention Diverse populations Group and family interventions Practice management Professional issues Ethical and legal issues Professional resources These detailed readable entries based on the most extensive and reliable research available form a comprehensive straightforward and quick reference resource applicable to practitioners across every field in mental health The Mental Health Desk Reference is the single resource no mental health professional can afford to be without.

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