

PA Child Protective Services Law Defines child abuse as:

Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly doing any of the following:

- Causing bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment to the child through any recent act.
- Causing or substantially contributing to serious mental injury to a child through any act or failure to act or a series of such acts or failures to act.
- Causing sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any act or failure to act.
- Creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- Creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- Causing serious physical neglect of a child.
- Causing the death of the child through any act or failure to act.

Also recent acts in which the act itself constitutes abuse without any resulting injury or condition including:

- Kicking, biting, throwing, burning, stabbing or cutting a child in a manner that endangers the child.
- Unreasonably restraining or confining a child, based on consideration of the method, location or the duration of the restraint or confinement.
- Forcefully shaking a child under one year of age.
- Forcefully slapping or otherwise striking a child under one year of age.
- Interfering with the breathing of a child.
- Causing a child to be present during the operation of a methamphetamine laboratory.
- Leaving a child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who was required to register as a Tier II or III sexual offender or has been determined to be a sexually violent predator or sexually violent delinquent.

How do I report child abuse?

Mandated reporters must make an immediate and direct report of suspected child abuse to ChildLine either electronically at:
www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis
or by calling
1-800-932-0313.

After making the report to ChildLine, if the abuse took place in Scouting or the perpetrator is connected to Scouting, mandated reporters are required to immediately thereafter notify the Scout Executive at:

If an oral report was made to ChildLine, a report of suspected child abuse (CY 47) must also be completed and forwarded to the county children and youth agency within 48 hours after making the report.

This form can be obtained at
www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov
or from the children and youth agency.
If a report is made electronically, no CY-47 is required to be completed.

1-800-932-0313

www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis

ChildLine

Child abuse hotline
available 24 hours a day.



CHILD ABUSE MANDATORY REPORTING

In Scouting And In Pennsylvania



Boy Scouts of America

We are all Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse

All persons involved in Scouting shall report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation, including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. You may not abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.

Pennsylvania

There are a number of different groups that are considered mandated reporters who are required by law to report suspected child abuse if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse.

As Scouting Volunteers, the law states, "An individual paid or unpaid, who, on the basis of the individual's role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity or service, accepts responsibility for a child."

Does a mandated reporter have to know for sure that the child was abused?

A mandated reporter is responsible to make the report when they **suspect** a child is a victim of abuse.

Are mandated reporters required to report when they learn of the abuse from someone other than the child who was allegedly abused?

Nothing requires a child to come before the mandated reporter in order to make a report.

Must a mandated reporter give their name?

The law requires that the mandated reporter identify themselves and where they can be reached. This information is helpful so that if clarification on the situation or additional information is needed, the children and youth caseworker can contact the mandated reporter.

Will the name of the mandated reporter be released?

The identity of the person making the report is kept confidential with the exception of being released to law enforcement officials or the district attorney's office.

What if a mandated reporter fails to follow the law?

The penalties for a mandated reporter who willfully fails to report child abuse range from a misdemeanor of second degree to a felony of the second degree.

Will a mandated reporter have to testify in court?

Mandated reporters may be required to testify in a civil or criminal court case, including a juvenile or criminal court proceeding.

What happens after a report is made?

ChildLine forwards the report of suspected child abuse to the local county children and youth agency, which investigates the report to determine if the allegations can be substantiated as child abuse/neglect and also arranges for or provides the services that are needed to prevent the further maltreatment of the child and to preserve the family unit.

The county children and youth agency must begin an investigation within 24 hours. A thorough inquiry is conducted to determine if the child was abused and what services are appropriate for the child and family. This must be completed within 30 days unless the agency provides justification as to why the investigation cannot be completed, including attempts being made to obtain medical records or interview subjects of the report.

If the alleged perpetrator named in the report does not meet the definition of perpetrator under the CPSL, but does suggest the need for investigation, ChildLine will forward the information to the district attorney's office in the respective county.

How does a mandated reporter learn what happened on the report they made and what the agency is doing to protect the child from further abuse?

Mandated reporters will receive information from the Department regarding the final status of the report, whether it was unfounded, indicated or founded, and the services planned or provided to protect the child.

What will be done for the child?

It is the mission of the county children and youth agency to preserve the family whenever possible. Should the child be found to be in danger of continued harm, the child may be removed from the home. Through counseling, training and other support services, families learn to end the cycle of abuse and establish a parent/child relationship that will be free of physical and mental violence.