

The Child Abuse EPIDEMIC

PROTECT YOUR STUDENTS. PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT THE COMMUNITY.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

IN CHILDREN

Physical Abuse

- Aggressive or Hostile Toward Others
- Attempts to Hide Bruises or Injuries
- Frequently Absent from School
- Behavioral Problems

Sexual Abuse

- Demonstrating Sexual Acts on Other Children or Toys
- Inappropriate Sexual Knowledge for Age
- Emotional and Behavioral Problems

IN ABUSERS

Physical Abuse

- Humiliates, Berates, or Belittles
- Harsh and Rigid About Discipline
- Singles Out or Openly Rejects Child

Sexual Abuse

- Ignoring Social/Physical Boundaries
- Making Inappropriate Sexual Comments
- "Grooming"
- Has Secret Interactions With Children
- Unwanted Touching, Hugging, etc.



WHEN TO REPORT

If you suspect abuse, **REPORT** it! Proof of abuse is not required; law enforcement will determine proof during the course of their investigation.

When one "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..." (P.C. 11166 a)

Report **IMMEDIATELY** by phone to your local CWS Hotline – a report must be filed within 36 hours.



HOW TO REPORT

Step 1

Contact Local Police Department
Phone:
Fax:

Step 2

Contact Child Protective Services
Phone:
Fax:

Step 3

Within 36 Hours, complete the Department of Justice "**Suspected Child Abuse Report**" and fax to the local authorities and Child Protective Services. This report can be found at www.oag.ca.gov/childabuse



YOU ARE A MANDATED REPORTER!

Any employee of a public (or private) school is a mandated reporter. This includes teachers, aides, custodians, coaches, administrative personnel, principals, etc. Your failure to report could result in penalties, fines and imprisonment.



WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Self Protection

The following tips can protect you and help to avoid situations that could lead to fraudulent allegations of inappropriate conduct.

Avoid contact with students involving hugging, touching, grabbing, or rubbing/massaging.

When privacy with students is necessary, leave the doors and windows open when possible.

For teachers, classroom arrangement should not have sections for privacy.



Do Not Tell Your Friends or Colleagues!

Immunity is provided to individuals completing a report, but you are not protected against allegations of slander or libel if you disclose your suspicions with other colleagues and friends. Mandated reporters are immune from criminal and civil liability when reporting in good faith (not if intentionally making a fraudulent report). \$50,000 for attorneys' fees is available from the state to defend oneself in a civil suit if sued for making a mandated report.

Visit these websites for more information on how you can **stop child abuse!**

www.keenan.com/abusepreventioncenter | www.mandatedreporterca.com
www.childwelfare.gov | www.stopitnow.org