

How To Report Child Abuse

What is Child Abuse?

California Penal Code (PC 11165) defines child abuse as any of the following¹:

- A child is physically injured by other than accidental means;
- A child is subjected to willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment;
- A child is abused or exploited sexually;
- A child is neglected by a parent or caretaker who fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision.

Who are Mandated Reporters?

Mandated reporters are professionals who have regular contact with children and are therefore legally required to report suspected child abuse. In California there are 46 professions defined as mandated reporters. The full list of mandated reporters can be found in Section 11165.7 of the Penal Code.

Mandated reporters include the following:

- All licensed healthcare professionals, including but not limited to:
 - Physicians
 - Nurses
 - Mental Health Professionals
 - EMTs, paramedics, medical examiners
 - All employees in a long-term health facility
 - Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Marriage & Family Counselors
- Child care custodians/Elder or dependent adult custodians
- Teachers
- Clergy
- Employee of a protective service or law enforcement agency
- Commercial film & photographic print processors

¹ <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/OCAP/what-you-should-know-about-mandated-reporting-2020.pdf>

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Regal Company Policy: Anyone within the scope of his/her employment who has observed or has knowledge of an incident that reasonably appears to indicate abuse should inform their supervisor and report to the appropriate authority.

Still Unsure Of Your Status As A Mandated Reporter?

If you are unsure whether or not you are a mandated reporter, contact your supervisor. REMEMBER, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MANDATED REPORTER TO SUBMIT A REPORT!

When And How To Report:

Child abuse is to be reported immediately:

Step 1: Immediately report the incident by telephone to the:

- County Child Welfare Department Hotline (see below list of county hotlines) or
- Police or Sheriff's Department (for immediate 911 services)

Step 2: A written Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) must be completed within **36** hours of receiving information which prompts concerns about suspected abuse or neglect. To obtain the form click on the link: [Suspected Child Abuse Report](#)

What Information Is Included in the Child Abuse Report?

The written report should include as much of the following information as possible²:

- Date(s) and description(s) of the injuries or dangers;
- Identity of perpetrator(s) and their relationship/s to the child;
- Whether the perpetrator has ongoing access to the child;
- Witness(es) to the incident(s) and how they may be reached;
- Present condition/status of the child (for example: in need of medical attention);
- The location of the child;
- Statement from the child(ren), when possible

² <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/OCAP/what-you-should-know-about-mandated-reporting-2020.pdf>

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When And How Can Regal Social Workers Help?

What Regal Social Workers CAN Do:

- File child abuse reports using first-hand information related to suspected abuse or neglect
- Provide guidance to other Regal staff regarding the process for filing child abuse reports
- Support members with any other social service resources or needs identified by the Regal care team and within their scope of work (outlined in the Regal Social Work Referral Form)

What Regal Social Workers CAN'T Do:

- File a child abuse report on behalf of anyone
- Investigate or gather information about suspected child abuse

Child Abuse Reporting Information By County ³	
Los Angeles County	(800) 540-4000 Online Reporting: https://mandreptla.org/cars.web/
Orange County	(714) 940-1000 (800) 207-4464 (24hr hotline)
Riverside County	(800) 442-4918 (877) 922-4453
San Bernardino County	(909) 384-9233 (800) 827-8724
Ventura County	(805) 654-3200
San Diego County	(858) 650-2191

³ <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/reporting/report-abuse/child-protective-services/report-child-abuse>