California mandated reporting easy steps... what must be reported and how to report!

What Must be Reported

Any of the below acts involving anyone under the age of 18:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

The mandated reporter must only have *reasonable suspicion* that a child has been mistreated; no evidence or proof is required prior to making a report. The case will be further investigated by law enforcement and/or child welfare services.

How To Report

By Phone

Immediately, or as soon as possible, make a telephone report to child welfare services and/or to a Police or Sheriff's department.

1. Child Welfare Services phone #
2. Police Department phone #
3. Sheriff's Department phone #

In Writing

Within 36 hours, a written report must be sent, faxed or submitted electronically. The written report should be completed on a state form called the 8572, which can be downloaded at:
http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf

Other Information

Safeguards for Mandated Reporters:

- The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) states that the name of the mandated reporter is strictly confidential, although it is provided to investigative parties working on the case.
- Under state law, mandated reporters cannot be held liable in civil or criminal court whenreporting as required; however, under federal law mandated reporters only have immunity for reports made in good faith.

Failure to report:

- Failure to report concerns of child abuse or neglect is considered a misdemeanor and ispunishable in California by six months in jail and/or up to a $1,000 fine.
- For the complete law and a list of mandated reporters refer to California Penal Codes 11164-11174.3.