

Training topic # 2

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Training

The information presented here are passages out of the *DHS Guide for Mandated Reporters* that were selected specific to this training.

If you have any suspicion that a child may be a victim of abuse/neglect or is at risk of abuse or neglect, please do the right thing and report. The following information is for those who are legally required to report abuse based upon their occupation, but all adults have a responsibility to care for our keiki. Suspicion is enough to report; you do not need proof.

How does Chapter 350, HRS define child abuse and neglect?

The acts or omissions that must be reported pursuant to Chapter 350, HRS includes, but is not limited to:

1. When the child exhibits evidence of:

A. Substantial or multiple skin bruising or any other internal bleeding; **B.** Any injury to skin causing substantial bleeding; **C.** Malnutrition; **D.** Failure to thrive; **E.** Burn or burns; **F.** Poisoning; **G.** Fracture of any bone; **H.** Subdural hematoma; **I.** Soft tissue swelling; **J.** Extreme pain; **K.** Extreme mental distress; **L.** Gross degradation; **M.** Death; and **N.** such injury is not justifiably explained, or when the history given concerning such condition or death is at variance with the degree or type of such condition or death, or circumstances indicate that such condition or death may not be the product of an accidental occurrence; or



2. When the child has been the victim of sexual contact or conduct, including, but not limited to, rape, sodomy, molestation, sexual fondling, incest, or prostitution; obscene or pornographic photographing, or filming, or depiction; or other similar forms of sexual exploitation, or
3. When there exists injury to the psychological capacity of a child as is evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment in the child's ability to function; or
4. When the child is not provided in a timely manner with adequate food, clothing, shelter, psychological care, physical care, medical care, or supervision; or
5. When the child is provided with dangerous, harmful, or detrimental drugs as defined by section 712-1240; provided that this paragraph shall not apply when such drugs are provided to the child pursuant to the direction or prescription of a practitioner.

When must child abuse be reported?

If a mandated reporter has any reason to believe that child abuse, neglect, or trafficking has occurred, or that a child may be a victim of child abuse, neglect, or trafficking in the future, **they must immediately report**. Any suspicion is enough to report; you do not need proof.

Who is mandated to report child abuse and neglect?

If you are uncertain if you fall into one of these categories, please contact Child Welfare Services to learn more about whether or not you are mandated to report in the state of Hawaii. However, remember that all adults have a responsibility to report child abuse, even if they are not a mandated reporter. Professional reporters include, but are not limited to:

- ♦ Teachers
- ♦ Doctors and Nurses
- ♦ Daycare staff
- ♦ Employees of a clinic or health care facility
- ♦ Juvenile probation, detention or correctional officers

How to Make a Report

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

To report suspected abuse or neglect, please **call the Child Abuse and Neglect reporting line:** Toll Free Neighbor Islands – 1-888-380-6688

If you have any suspicion of labor or sex trafficking, please call the Human Trafficking reporting line: Toll Free Neighbor Islands – 1-888-398-1188

The police or child welfare services will walk you through the process on how to make a report. To make sure you are prepared, please read the CWS Guide for Mandated Reporters available to you online.

What If I'm Not Sure?

You can consult with the Department of Human Services regarding your concerns or observations. You need not be prepared to prove that abuse or neglect has occurred before making a report. If the child has shared information with you about the abuse/neglect, this is enough for you to call. Except for medical situations where history taking includes asking relevant questions to determine the appropriate kinds of tests or examination needed, the preference is that you make a referral immediately once the information is shared with you. Since the social worker may need to interview the child, **it is our goal that the child not be subjected to numerous interviews about his/her abusive or neglectful situation** by different people.

