

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

Child abuse also includes certain acts in which the act itself constitutes abuse without any resulting injury or condition. These acts include any of the following:

- 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, provided that the violation is being investigated by law enforcement.
- Leaving a child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who the parent knows or reasonably should have known 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.

For information about professional development for mandatory reporting of child abuse, please contact:

CHILD PROTECTION OPERATIONS

Office of Human Resources
childpro@andrew.cmu.edu
412-268-3291

Carnegie Mellon employees are mandatory reporters of child abuse. Employees are obligated by law to report suspected child abuse. Volunteers who are responsible for the welfare of a minor or who have direct contact with minors are also mandatory reporters.

When to File a Report

A mandatory reporter must immediately file a report if he/she has reasonable cause to suspect that a minor is the victim of child abuse in the following circumstances:

- The mandatory reporter comes into contact with the minor in the course of employment, occupation and practice of a profession or through a regularly scheduled program, activity or service;
- The mandatory reporter is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance, or training of the minor, or is affiliated with an agency, institution, organization, school, regularly established church or religious organization or other entity that is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of a minor;
- A person makes a specific disclosure to the mandatory reporter that an identifiable minor is the victim of child abuse;
- An individual 14 years of age or older makes a specific disclosure to mandatory reporter that the individual has committed child abuse.

Carnegie Mellon University
Human Resources

How to File a Report

If you suspect child abuse, you must report externally AND internally.

External Reporting

Report to Childline at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis or 1-800-932-0313.

ChildLine is available 24 hours a day/7 days per week. Under Pennsylvania law, mandatory reporters must make an immediate and direct report of suspected child abuse to ChildLine.

Internal Reporting

In addition, mandatory reporters must file an internal report with their employer. Volunteers must file an internal report with the organization for which they are volunteering. At Carnegie Mellon, internal reports of child abuse may be submitted to the following:

- Carnegie Mellon University Police at 412-268-2323
- Office of the General Counsel at 412-268-7367
- Your supervisor

For questions about mandatory reporting obligations and/or assistance with filing external reports please contact:

- Carnegie Mellon University Police at 412-268-2323
- Office of the General Counsel at 412-268-7367
- Child Protection Operations at 412-268-3291

What Happens if I Don't File a Report?

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

What is Child Abuse?

Under Pennsylvania law, child abuse means 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.