

Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse

California Penal Code section 11165.7 requires all full-time and adjunct faculty members and employees of public schools to report any known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect to the county child welfare department or to a local law enforcement agency (local police/sheriff's department). In California, a child is anyone under the age of 18 years old. A report must be made immediately, or as soon as practically possible, with a follow up written report within 36 hours.

1. Written reports may be submitted on the California Suspected Child Abuse Report Form (Form SS 8572) found at http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf
2. Reports may also be made by phone to the Santa Clara County Emergency Response Child Abuse Reporting telephone numbers: South Santa Clara: 408-683-0601, Central Santa Clara County: 408-299-2071
3. Please visit the California Department of Education Child Abuse Identification & Reporting Guidelines for more information at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/ap/childabusereportingguide.asp>

Child Abuse and/or Child Neglect Can Be Any of the Following:

- o A physical injury inflicted on a child by another person other than by accidental means.

- The sexual abuse, assault, or exploitation of a child.
- The negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare. This is whether the harm or threatened harm is from acts or omissions on the part of the responsible person.
- The willful harming or endangerment of the person or health of a child, any cruel or inhumane corporal punishment or any injury resulting in a traumatic condition.

One does not have to be physically present or witness the abuse to identify suspected cases of abuse, or even have definite proof that a child may be subject to child abuse or neglect. Rather, the law requires that a person have a "reasonable suspicion" that a child has been the subject of child abuse or neglect. Under the law, this means that it is reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion of child abuse or neglect, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person, in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect.

Document Hyperlink: [Suspected Child Abuse Report Form \(Form SS 8572\)](#)