

Mandated Reporters: Keeping Children Safe

What are mandated reporters?

Mandated reporters are adults identified by Pennsylvania law who have a legal responsibility to report suspected child abuse. The law states a child is someone under the age of 18 and an adult is someone 18 years and older.

Who are mandated reporters?

Mandated reporters are adults responsible for the care, supervision, or guidance of a child through volunteer or paid work. Some of the individuals required to make a report include teachers, school helpers, health care workers, clergymen, priests, bishops, religious leaders, counselors, social service agency workers, and childcare workers.

If you suspect abuse, what should you do?

If you suspect abuse and are a mandated reporter, you are required to make a report to Childline. You must also report abuse if a person age 14 or older tells you they have abused a child.

Anyone who is not a mandated reporter can report suspected child abuse. If you are not a mandated reporter, you do not need to provide your name.

Childline reports can be made 24 hours a day by calling 1-800-932-0313. It is your responsibility to report abuse, not to prove it occurred. For example, if you only know a child's name and suspect abuse, then you have enough information to report.

This message is brought to you by the Plain Communities Task Force. If you have questions on your role as a mandated reporter please contact Mandy at (717) 869-5009.