



Child and Family Resource Council
118 Commerce SW, Suite 220
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 454-HOPE (4673)
Fax: (616) 454-2059
Website: www.childresource.cc

Mandated Reporter Training





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Training Goals

- Provide facts about child abuse and neglect and their short and long term effects.
- Define a Mandated Reporter.
- Explain why Mandated Reporting is important.
- Review the roles and responsibilities of a Mandated Reporter.
- Explain the process of filing a report to Child Protective Services.
- Review additional resources available to Mandated Reporters.





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Child and Family Resource Council

Mission:

*To shape a community
that protects children
from abuse and neglect.*





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Council Programs and Services

- **Connections** – Gives parents helpful information about development, parenting tips and ideas for fun activities to do with children.
- **Kent County Healthy Start** – Provides support for first-time parents through home visitation, phone calls and information.
- **Encouraging Family Foundations** – Provides a series of parenting and life skills classes to unmarried parents of children 0-2 years old.





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Programs and Services (cont.)

- **RAVE (Resources Against Violent Encounters)** – Using the *Safe Dates* Curriculum and peer education, RAVE helps teach adolescents about sexual assault, dating violence prevention and how to build healthy relationships.
- **Community Education** – Educational services and trainings such as Mandated Reporter Training, Shaken Baby Syndrome, parenting education and other topics to help prevent child abuse and neglect.
- **Family Resource Guide** – Comprehensive, easy-to-use directory of over 900 programs, services and resources available to children and families in Kent County.





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History of the Council

History

- The Council was formed in 1985 as a means to proactively deal with child abuse and neglect in Kent County. The Council utilizes primary and secondary prevention strategies to accomplish its goals.

Why Prevention?

- The Council's programs and services are provided **before** problems arise. In other words, while other organizations focus on treating the effects of child abuse and neglect, we work to stop abuse and neglect from ever happening.





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How is Prevention Defined?

1. Primary: services are available to all members of the general population and seek to promote wellness.
2. Secondary: services are offered to adults and children who are considered "at risk" for abuse or neglect.
3. Tertiary: services are offered to populations where child abuse and neglect have been substantiated with the focus on preventing further occurrences.





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Prevention Saves More Than Lives

- Child abuse costs our nation \$258 million per day
- Each year the average family will pay \$1400 for the cost of child abuse intervention. In comparison, prevention costs only \$1.06/yr.
- For every \$1 spent on child abuse prevention, \$34 will not be spent on publicly-funded, crisis oriented programming.





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The Importance of Intervention

- “It is now clear that what a child experiences in the first few years of life largely determines how his brain will develop and how he will interact with the world throughout his life.”

Ounce of Prevention (1996)

- Researchers agree that the experiences of the first few years form the foundation for children’s future functioning.

Perry & Pollard (1995)

- Being abused or neglected as a child increased the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59%, as an adult by 28% and for a violent crime by 30%.

National Institute of Justice (2001)





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Michigan's Child Protection Law

- Act 238 went into effect on October 1, 1975.
- It has been amended and updated several times since then
- **The law states:**
 1. Those who have **“reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect shall make immediately...an oral report.”**
 2. **“Within 72 hours after making the oral report, the reporting person shall file a written report.”**





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What is a Mandated Reporter?

- A **Mandated Reporter** is someone who is required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.
- All 50 states and Puerto Rico have some sort of reporting law.
- 25 states include clergy on list of Mandated Reporters (includes Michigan).
- 18 states and Puerto Rico require **any person** who suspects child abuse and neglect to report it. (does not include Michigan). Although, any person in Michigan **CAN** report their suspicions.





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Michigan's Mandated Reporters Include:

- Audiologist
- Dentist and/or Dental Hygienist
- Clergy
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Licensed Counselor
- Licensed Emergency Medical Care Provider
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Medical examiner
- Nurse
- Physician and/or Physician Assistant
- Psychologist
- Regulated Child Care Provider
- School Administrator
- School Counselor or Teacher
- Licensed Social Worker
- Social Service Technician

If you are included on this list, you are mandated by law to report any suspicion of child abuse and neglect at any time!





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Clergy's Responsibility to Report

- In December 2002, as a direct result of statewide advocacy efforts, former Governor John Engler approved **Public Act 693**, adding members of the clergy to the list of mandated reporters.
- This Act took effect March 1, 2003





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Why are Mandated Reporters Important?

- Mandated Reporters are typically professionals who see children and families on a daily basis.
- They can help prevent many cases of abuse and neglect.
- Many have access to information/secrets that others do not.
- They are a vital link between children who need help and the services that can help them.





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Keep in Mind:

- Child abuse and neglect crosses all racial, economic, religious, and gender lines.
- It is often not the stereotypical picture
- Some parents may only target one of their children.





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Which Children Are Most Vulnerable?

- Research indicates very young children (ages 3 and younger) are the most frequent victims of child abuse/neglect fatalities.
- This population of children is the most vulnerable for many reasons, including their dependency, small size and inability to defend themselves.
- **National** data for 2004 illustrates children younger than 1 year accounting for 45% of fatalities.



U.S. Department of Human Services (2005)



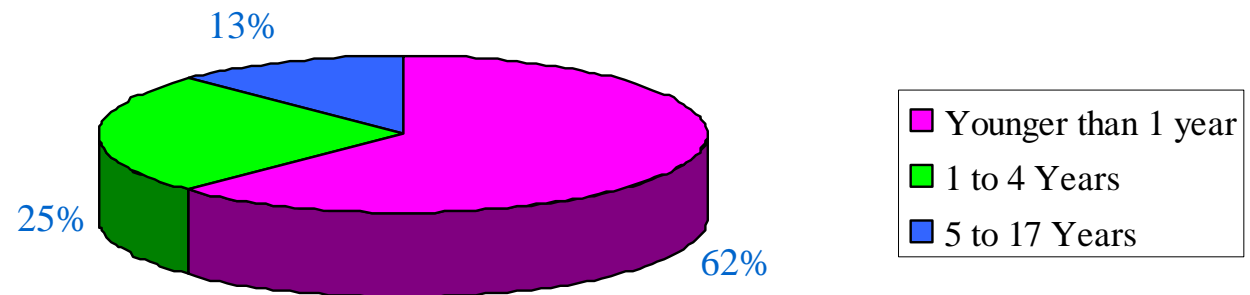
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Which Children Are Most Vulnerable?

Michigan Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

Victims by Age, 2005

(n=40)



Data Source: Michigan Child Death Review
Case Reporting System





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Who are the Abusers?

- Perpetrators are, by definition, **individuals responsible for the care and supervision of their children.**
- In 2005, nearly 80% of perpetrators were parents, and another 7% were other relatives of the victim. Unrelated caregivers accounted for less than 10% of perpetrators.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2005)



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What is Child Abuse?

“Harm or threatened harm to a child’s health or welfare that occurs through non-accidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or maltreatment”...by the person responsible for the child's care.





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Abuse Can Be:

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- Emotional
- Sexual





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Red Flags of Physical Abuse

- Injuries inconsistent with explanations
- Injuries inconsistent with medical history
- Head injuries
- Unexplained burns/bruises/welts
- Unexplained fractures and/or dislocations
- Unexplained lacerations or abrasions





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Handprint on leg

(photo courtesy of Lawrence R. Ricci, MD.)



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Bruises inflicted with switch



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Bite marks



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Burn inflicted with lighter



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Red Flags of Emotional Abuse

- Eating disorders
- Hyperactive/disruptive behavior
- Lags in physical development
- Shallow, empty facial appearance
- Sleep disturbances and/or nightmares
- Speech disorders
- Failure to thrive





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Red Flags of Sexual Abuse

- Bed wetting (after cessation)
- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Pain, swelling, or itching in genital area
- Pregnancy
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Withdrawn
- Pregnancy
- Sexually Transmitted Infections



Other Warning Signs of Abuse



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- Anti-social tendencies
- Anxiety
- Behavioral extremes
- Behavioral regression
- Depression
- Developmental lags
- Fear or anxiety of certain people or places
- Habit disorders
- New words for private body parts





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Other Warning Signs (cont.)

- Nightmares, fear of the dark, or other sleeping problems
- Poor social skills
- Regressive behaviors
- Psychosomatic symptoms
- Refusing to talk about a “secret” he/she has with an adult or older child
- Withdrawn
- Having unexplained money
- Talking about a new older friend
- Unrealistic fears





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What is Child Neglect?

- Child neglect is the “failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care”.
- Child neglect can also be defined as “a parent/guardians...failure to intervene to eliminate that risk when that person is able to do so and has, or should have the knowledge of the risk”
 - Failure to protect
 - Education and supervision requirements





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Red Flags of Child Neglect

Physical

- Consistent hunger
- Inappropriate dress for current weather
- Inappropriate food items for lunch
- Poor hygiene
- Poor growth pattern
- Underweight



Red Flags of Child Neglect (cont.)



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Medical

- Inadequate medical care
- Making false allegations regarding child's medical needs (Munchausen's Syndrome)
- Not following through with medical recommendations





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Red Flags of Child Neglect (cont.)

Malnutrition

- 12.6 million households in the US were food insecure at some time during 2006.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (2006)

- Children who do not receive adequate nourishment may suffer abnormal brain, cognitive, and psychological development which, if not corrected, can be irreparable.

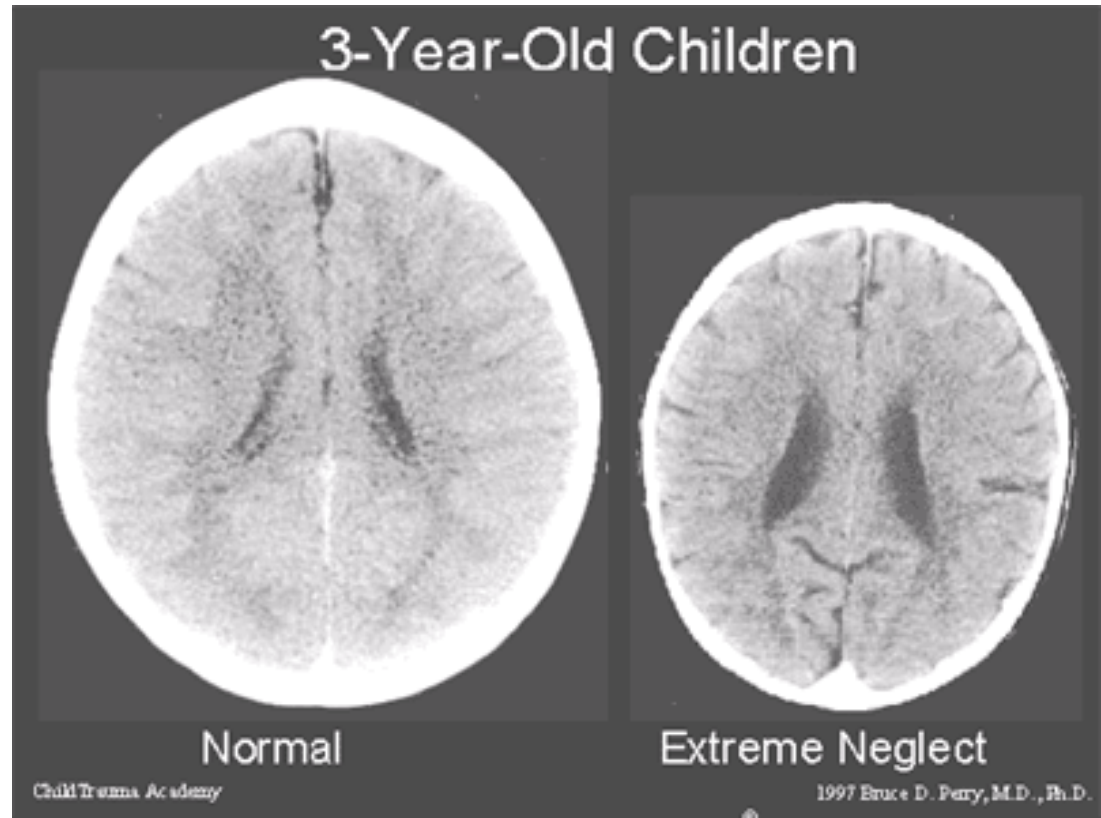
Karr, Morse & Wiley (1997)





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The Impact of Neglect on the Brain



- Healthy three year old
- Average brain size
- Three year old suffering from severe sensory deprivation & neglect
- Abnormal development of cortex



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A Community's Response!

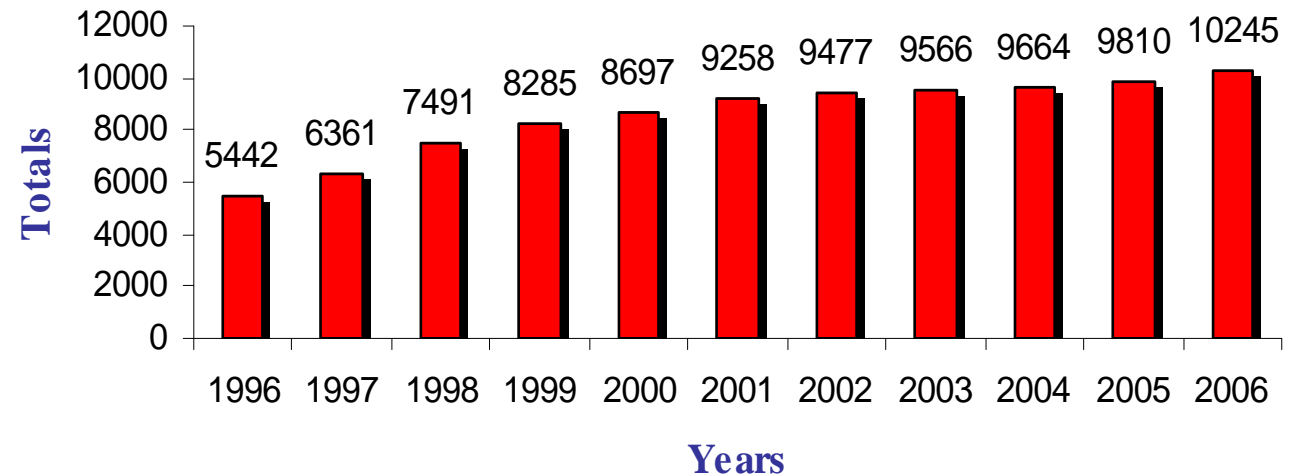




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A Community's Responsibility

Kent County Child Abuse and Neglect Complaints



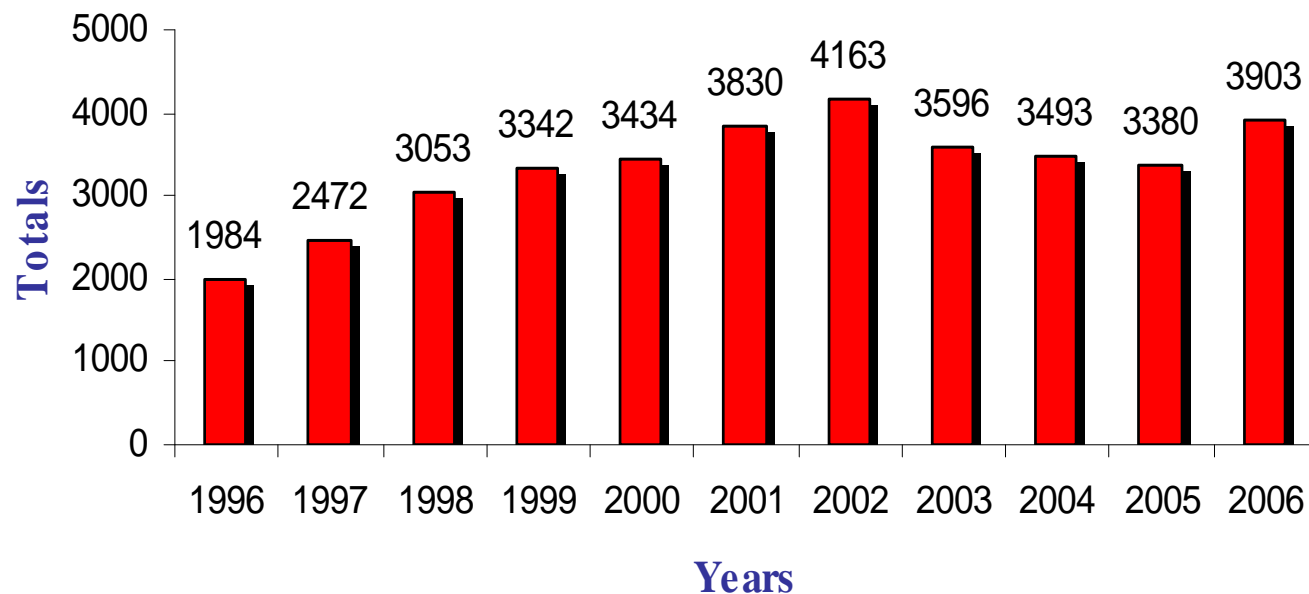
Reported from Linda Wolthius (2007). Child Protective Services.



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A Community's Responsibility

Kent County CPS Investigations



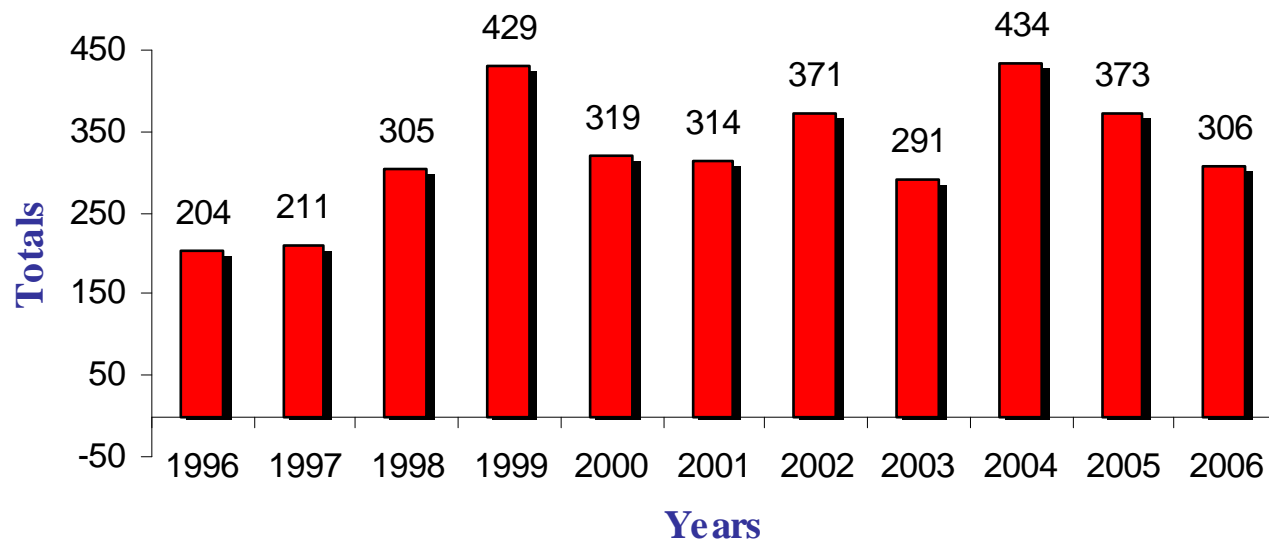
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A Community's Responsibility

Kent County Total Removals



Reported from Linda Wolthius (2007). Child Protective Services.



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A Community's Responsibility

- From 1996-2006, the number of child abuse and neglect reports in Kent County nearly doubled.
- While there was a 49% increase in CPS removal of children in unsafe situations from 2003-2004, Kent County has seen a 12% decrease from 2005-2006.
- The rate of confirmed cases of neglect among children 0-5 is higher in Kent County compared to Michigan in FY 2004





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How Do You Respond to Disclosures?

- Believe the child
- Do not overreact
- Try to reduce the child's level of anxiety:
 1. Speak calmly and friendly
 2. NEVER ask questions such as, "Why didn't you tell me about this sooner?"
 3. Reassure them that what happened is **NOT THEIR FAULT**
 4. Don't push them to say more than they are willing to say



How Do You Respond to Suspicion with no Disclosure?



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- Ask clarifying questions
- Do not ask leading questions
- Document everything





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Next Steps

- Contact Child Protective Services (CPS) at **(616) 247-6300**
– Fax **(616) 246-1767**
- Call the police first if it is an immediate emergency!



Helpful Information When Filing a Report



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- Alleged victim's full name, birth date, and race.
- Alleged perpetrator's full name and relationship to alleged victim (if known).
- Child's current address and the address where the alleged incident happened (if different).
- Context of the disclosure. For example, was the child asked about the injury or did they volunteer the information?
- Whether or not the alleged perpetrator lives with the child.
- Description of your suspicion.





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3200 CPS Reporting Form

REPORT OF ACTUAL OR SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT Michigan Family Independence Agency

Was referral phoned to FIA?
 Yes No ▶ If yes, Log # _____ ▶ If no, contact the local FIA Office immediately

INSTRUCTIONS: REFERRING PERSON: Complete items 1-20. Send PART 1 to local County FIA where the child is found. Retain PART 2 for your records. See additional instructions on back. 1. Date

2. List of Child(ren) Suspected of being Abused or Neglected (List additional children on back of Part 1)

NAME	BIRTH DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY #	SEX	RACE

3. Mother's Name

4. Father's Name

5. Child(ren)'s Address (No. & Street) 6. City 7. County 8. Phone No.

9. Name of Alleged Perpetrator of Abuse or Neglect 10. Relationship to Child(ren)

11. Person(s) the Child(ren) Living with when Abuse/Neglect Occurred 12. Address, City & Zip Code where abuse/neglect occurred

13. Describe injury or Conditions and Reason for Suspicion of Abuse or Neglect (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

14. Source of Referral (Check appropriate box)
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> AUDIOLOGIST | <input type="checkbox"/> PSYCHOLOGIST |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL EXAMINER (Coroner) | <input type="checkbox"/> *SOCIAL WORKER | <input type="checkbox"/> PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DENTIST/DENTAL HYGIENIST | <input type="checkbox"/> SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR | <input type="checkbox"/> TEACHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NURSE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCHOOL COUNSELOR | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL | <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD CARE PROVIDER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY INDEPENDENCE MANAGER | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY INDEPENDENCE SPECIALIST | <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIAGE/FAMILY THERAPIST |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL WORK SPECIALIST MANAGER | <input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE SERVICES SPECIALIST | <input type="checkbox"/> FIA FACILITY |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> DCH FACILITY |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL WORK SPECIALIST |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify below) |

15. Referring Person's Name 16. Name of Referring Organization (school, hospital, etc.)

17. Address (No. & Street) 18. City 19. State 20. Phone No.





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After you File:

- Written reports must be filed 72 hours after verbal report.
- You have fulfilled your responsibility as a mandated reporter.
- File additional reports if any new suspicions arise.
- If you have questions or are unsatisfied with the handling of your report, contact the CPS hotline at: (877) 277-2585.





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After You File a Report: (cont.)

1. Intake worker receives report
2. CPS will determine whether to open case for investigation
3. CPS will begin investigation
4. CPS will assess the risk of harm or threat of harm to child and, based on the assessment, will take certain actions.
5. CPS will talk to parents, family members, and perhaps teachers to gather information





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After You File (Cont.)

6. CPS will make decision regarding action to take
 - May not be able to take any action if report is anonymous or cannot find perpetrator
 - Recommend community services like counseling or parent education classes
 - If significant risk, may put the child in safe place (St. John's Home)
 - In most serious situations, the child will be placed in foster care and eventually moved to another permanent home, but this is only after a lot of time and effort is put into providing resources that can keep the family intact.





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All CPS Reports Fall Under Five Categories of Dispositions:

- **Category V: Services Not Needed**
- **Category IV: Community Services Recommended**
- **Category III: Community Services Needed**
- **Category II: Child Protective Services Required**
- **Category I: Court Petition Required**





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Remember:

- The ultimate goal is to lessen the child's trauma.
- Personal feelings must not prevent us from reporting suspected child abuse.
- Mandated Reporters are neither detectives nor investigators.
- Failing to report allows the problem to continue
- Those who report in good faith are kept confidential and are immune from civil or criminal lawsuits (722.625 Sec. 5)
- Mandated Reporters may be called to testify on behalf of the child.



Additional Community Resources



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- Child Sexual Abuse Intervention:
 - Children’s Assessment Center: 336.5160
- Child Sexual Abuse Treatment:
 - YWCA: 459.4672
- Parenting Classes:
 - Arbor Circle: 456.7775
 - Child & Family Resource Council: 454.4673
 - Family Outreach Center: 247.3815
 - Life Guidance Services: 774.0633
- Parent Helpline: 800.942.HELP (4357)
- Gerber Parent Resource Center: 800.4.Gerber





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“There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace.”

Kofi A. Annan

Secretary-General of the United Nations





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For more information, contact the Child
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THANK YOU FOR COMING!





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