

## **Reporting Child Abuse**

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast  
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## **Who is A Child?**

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- **A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years old**

## **Defining Abuse**

- **Child abuse is “harm or threatened harm to a child’s health or welfare. Harm or threatened harm to a child’s health or welfare can occur through non-accidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or attempted sexual abuse or sexual exploitation or attempted sexual exploitation.”**

## **Abuse**

- **Abuse occurs when a child is:**
  - **Actually harmed**
  - **Subject to a serious threat of harm**

### **Abuse**

- **Kinds of harm include:**
  - **Physical injury**
  - **Mental injury**
  - **Sexual abuse**
  - **Sexual exploitation**

### **Defining Sexual Abuse**

- **Sexual Abuse is the “employment, use persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or having a child assist any other person to engage in sexually explicit conduct or any simulation of the conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of the conduct; ...**

### **Defining Sexual Abuse**

- **... or the rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children as those acts are defined by Alabama law.”**

### **Sexual Abuse**

- **Sexual abuse occurs any time anyone:**
  - **Attempts to involve a child in a sexual situation of any kind**
  - **Actually does involve a child in a sexual situation of any kind**

### **Defining Sexual Exploitation**

- **Sexual exploitation is “allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution [or] allowing, permitting, encouraging or engaging in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming or depicting of a child for commercial purposes.”**

### **Defining Neglect**

- **Neglect is defined as the “negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including the failure to provide adequate food, medical treatment, supervision, clothing, or shelter.”**

### **Remember**

- **Child abuse can occur without direct contact between the child and the abuser**
- **Any situation may involve several different abusers**
  - **The person who did the act**
  - **The person who allowed the act**
  - **The person who encouraged the act to be performed**

### **Remember**

- **Any situation may involve several different types of harm**
  - **Sexual abuse, mental abuse, and neglect could all be occurring simultaneously**

### **What About “Statutory” Rape?**

- **A person commits the crime of statutory rape regardless of the appearance of consent if:**
  - **They are over 16 and their partner is under 12**
  - **They are over 16 and their partner is both under 16 and greater than two years younger than the actor**

### **Human Trafficking**

- **First degree**
  - **Class A Felony**
- **Second degree**
  - **Class B Felony**

### **Who Should Report?**

- **“All hospitals, clinics, sanitariums, doctors, physicians, surgeons, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, osteopaths, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurses, school teachers and officials, peace officers, law enforcement officials, pharmacists, social workers, day care workers or employees, mental health professionals,...**

### **Who Should Report?**

- **... or any other person called upon to render aid or medical assistance to any child when such child is known or suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, shall be required to report, or cause a report to be made...”**

### **Who Should Report?**

- In addition to ‘mandatory reporters,’ “any person may make such a report if such person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected.”

### **How Do I Report?**

- Immediately call your local office of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) or the police
- After you speak with DHR or the police, prepare a written statement of the information to send to them

### **What Do I Report?**

- You should report:
  - The child’s name
  - The child’s location
  - The names and addresses of parents/guardians/caretakers
  - The character and extent of his injuries

### **What Do I Report?**

- Any evidence of previous injuries to the child
- Any other information that could help establish the cause of the injuries, including the identities of the abusers

### **Why Should I Report?**

- Reporting child abuse is the right thing to do
  - You could help save the life of a child

### **Why Should I Report?**

- Reporting Child Abuse is the legal thing to do
  - There is no risk to you for making a report
    - However, failure to report can subject you to up to SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT and a \$500 FINE!

### **What if I Have Questions?**

- **If you're interested in more information, the Child Reporting Act can be found in Alabama Code Sections 26-14-1 through Alabama Code Sections 26-14-13**
- **If you have any legal questions, call the ADPH Office of General Counsel at (334) 206- 5209, and ask to speak with an attorney**