

MANDATED REPORTING of CHILD ABUSE

Reportable Incidents	Mandated Reporters	Reporting Circumstances	Reporting Procedures	Clinical Considerations
Physical Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traumatic injuries • Unexplained injuries • Injuries inconsistent/history Emotional Abuse Sexual Abuse Psychological Abuse Neglect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incl delays in seeking medical tx 	Childcare custodians, health practitioners, employees of a child protective agency, public health employees, child visitation monitors, firefighters, animal control officers, human society officers, and commercial film and photographic print processors. Childcare custodians includes teachers; instructional aides, teacher’s aides,	Any mandated reporter “who has knowledge of or observes a child, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse, shall report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency...” Reasonable suspicion means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion, 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.	Verbal reports are to be made immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone, followed by a written report within 36 hours. For incidents occurring in San Mateo County: Call: 650-595-7922 Mail reports to: Children’s Services 400 Harbor Blvd. Building B Belmont, CA 94001 Depending on the nature of a report, a clinician may be directed by Children’s Services to report directly to local law enforcement.	The following may raise the index of suspicion for abuse or neglect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of care or poor hygiene • Malnourished • Injuries at different stages of healing • Medical neglect of a physical condition • Caregiver unresponsive to child’s needs • Presence of sexually transmitted diseases Clinically: Discuss mandated reporting responsibilities with client if possible or appropriate. Assess for immediate danger to child, develop safety plan. If disclosure involves an offending adult, give opportunity for the offender to call in the report his or her self.