

Mandated Reporter Training Overview Video

Video Transcript

Welcome to Mandated Reporter Overview.

This Minnesota Department of Human Services training is for individuals mandated to report child maltreatment. This training is designed to help you understand the mandated reporter laws and requirements, including the actions you need to take if you know or suspect a child is being maltreated. However, anyone may voluntarily report child maltreatment concerns to the local child protection or law enforcement agency.

Minnesota Statute section 626.556 subdivision 1 states that “While it is recognized that most parents want to keep their children safe sometimes circumstances or conditions interfere with a parent’s ability to keep their children safe. When this occurs, the health and safety of children must be of paramount concern. Intervention and prevention efforts must address immediate concerns for child safety and the ongoing risk of abuse or neglect and should engage the protective capacities of families.”

During this training, you will learn who needs to report and why, the process for reporting suspected child maltreatment, where to report, when to report, what you must report and questions you will be asked.

The training also reviews the types of neglect and abuse you must report, child protection's responsibility, screened in reports and the three response paths, learning the outcome of the assessment or investigation, maltreatment determinations and how they are made and relevant state statutes.

Certain professionals are required to report child maltreatment under Minnesota law. These professionals are mandated to report while performing duties related to their position. Mandated reporters include professionals and their delegates in the following fields. HealthCare: hospital administrators, medical personnel and professionals. Social services: social workers, group home staff, foster parents. Mental health professionals: psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists, Childcare: family child care providers, child care center staff. Education: teachers and assistants, school administrators, support staff, university staff and coaches, Law enforcement. Guardian's ad litem. Probation and correctional services. Clergy unless that information is received under certain privileged circumstances under Minnesota Statute five nine five point zero two subdivision 1 c.

There are a number of reasons why a mandated reporter should make a child maltreatment report. To prevent harm. To assist families in receiving services. It’s the law. Minnesota requires professionals and their delegates who work with children to make a child protection report if they know or have a reason to believe a child is being neglected or abused within the preceding three years. If you are required to report known or suspected abuse or neglect and fail to do so, you are guilty of a misdemeanor.

Minnesota law also provides protections for you as a mandated reporter. A mandated reporter's identity is confidential: It is accessible only if the reporter consents, by court order, or by court procedure. A mandated reporter is immune from civil/criminal liability. Employer retaliation is prohibited.

Knowing when to make a report is part of your responsibility as a mandated reporter. If you have reason to believe a child has been maltreated within the preceding three years a report must be made. You must make a verbal report immediately (no longer than 24 hours). You must follow up with a written report within 72 hours. You may not have another person make the report on your behalf. The responsibility of making a report is yours.

Knowing where to make the report can be challenging, as there are a number of places to report depending on the circumstances. Of course, if a child is in immediate danger or there is any other type of emergency, contact law enforcement immediately. Only law enforcement officers can respond to emergencies or remove a child for immediate safety concerns.

When there is no immediate danger, a child maltreatment report can be made to several different agencies depending on circumstances. Report to your local child welfare agency or law enforcement if the alleged offender is a parent, guardian, family child care provider, family foster care provider or an unlicensed personal care provider. The exception is sex trafficking reports. The offender does not have to be related or in a caretaking role.

Report to the Minnesota Department of Human Services Division of Licensing if alleged maltreatment involves a staff person employed by a facility licensed of the department. This includes: child care centers, residential treatment centers, group homes, minor parent programs, children's shelters, substance use disorder treatment program for adolescents, waiver services, crisis respite care programs, residential service programs for children with developmental disabilities, child foster care homes when an alleged victim is in extended foster care or a juvenile correctional facility licensed under two four one point zero two one. The Minnesota Department of Human Services Division of Licensing can be reached at 651-431-6500

Report to the Minnesota Department of Health Office of Health Facility Complaints if the alleged maltreatment occurred in a setting licensed by the department. This includes home health care settings, hospitals, regional treatment centers, nursing homes, intermediate care facilities for developmentally disabled children or the maltreatment is alleged against a licensed or unlicensed healthcare attendant. The Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Health Facility Complaints can be reached at 651-201-4200.

Report to the Minnesota Department of Education when the alleged offender is a staff person in most school settings. This includes public pre-schools, elementary schools, middle schools, secondary or a charter schools. Reports regarding staff working in private or parochial school are sent directly to law enforcement. The Minnesota Department of Education can be reached at 651-582-8546.

Law enforcement: Report to law enforcement if the alleged offender is someone outside the family or not a staff person at a regulated facility. The exception is sex trafficking. The alleged offender does not have to be in a caregiving role and either law enforcement or your local child welfare agency can be contacted.

So to recap, for emergencies or immediate danger, contact a law enforcement agency immediately. When there is no immediate danger, depending on the circumstances, you can contact your local child welfare agency,

Minnesota Department of Human Services Division of Licensing, Minnesota Department of Health Office of Health Facility Complaints, Minnesota Department of Education or Law Enforcement. If you are in doubt about where to report, call your local child welfare agency and report your concern. They will be able to take your report and ensure that the appropriate agency is notified.

This has been Mandated Reporter Overview training. Please see the Mandated Reporter guide available online for more information. Please proceed to the next Mandated Reporter Training video Maltreatment Types.