

# Mandated Reporting

Every year we are given the lecture on mandated reporting. We are reminded that we are mandated reporters. The areas where this discussion seems to get vague surround what exactly requires reporting and when this report must be made?

- Victim under 18, or a disabled student under the age of 21.
- There is a specific incident(s) or circumstances involving abuse or neglect
- There is demonstrated harm or substantial risk of physical/sexual injury to the child.

Reports must be made immediately when you have “reasonable cause to believe” a child known to you in your professional capacity may be an abused or neglected child. Professional capacity does include extra-curricular, school related activities. (Not required to call for observed zealous grocery store discipline.)

Abuse Types that must be reported

- **Physical** (include bruising, bites, burns, broken bones. Note: legitimate accidents are exempt.)
- **Sexual** (Transmission of STD, sexual contact, forcing child to watch sex acts)
- **Neglect** (Failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment. Also includes inadequate supervision.)
- **Child pornography** found on a cell phone or computer must be reported to law enforcement.

Should the parent be notified that a report has been made? It is not required. (And sometimes isn't a good idea.) Use your best judgment.

There is an on-line Manual for Mandated Reporters in Illinois which provides much more detail as well as some explanation of the steps that follow. It also has on the very first page the phone numbers and a handy checklist of questions you will be asked.

<http://www.state.il.us/dcf/child/index.shtml>

also refer to Harlem School Board Policy 5:90:

[http://policy.microscribepub.com/cgi-bin/om\\_isapi.dll?clientID=211447709&depth=2&infobase=harlem.nfo&record={B9B}&softpage=PL\\_frame](http://policy.microscribepub.com/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=211447709&depth=2&infobase=harlem.nfo&record={B9B}&softpage=PL_frame)

## 1-800-25-ABUSE or 1-800-252-2873