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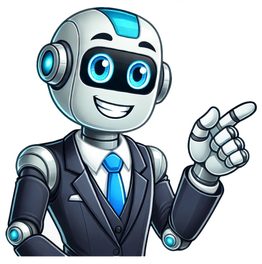

Welcome to EducationCorner.com.Whether you're a high school student looking for the best college to attend, a teacher looking for new lesson ideas, a professional seeking career training programs, or a mom searching for the best homeschooling resources for your children, we're confident that EducationCorner.com will be helpful to you.Becton Loveless. I believe a good education is one of the greatest blessings you can provide your children. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Brigham Young University in 1998 and earned my MBA from the Marriott School of Management in 2002. I have been a long time contributor to EducationCorner.com.Alicia Betz is a writer and high school English teacher; she has been teaching since 2012. She earned her Bachelor's in Education from Penn State University and her Master's in Education from Michigan State University. She focused her studies on educational literacy, online teaching, and communications. When she's not teaching or writing, you can find her spending time with her husband, daughter, and German Shepherd.Read more about us! As a mandated reporter, you're always on the lookout for signs of child abuse or neglect. This duty includes watching for signs of physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, human trafficking, emotional abuse, and parental substance use. When you do see a sign, it's vital to know who you need to contact and how, and how long you have to report child abuse. A quick response can save a life.Failing to report child abuse has serious consequences. In many states, failing to report is considered a misdemeanor. In some states, it can even be upgraded to a felony. Because of this, mandated reporters need to know how long they have to report suspected abuse.How long do I have to make the initial report?Almost all states and U.S. territories require that mandated reporters report incidences of child abuse immediately or as soon as practically possible. A fast response time can make a huge difference for the child involved, making it imperative to respect this window of time.Some states further clarify this time frame by setting a specific window. For example:Connecticut: Your report must be made no more than 12 hours after cause to suspect.Idaho, Nevada, Vermont, West Virginia, and the North Mariana Islands: You must report no later than 24 hours after reasonable suspicion.Texas & Washington: Your report must be made no more than 48 hours after suspicion.In Minnesota, suspected abuse at any point within the preceding three years must be reported immediately.Many states require that this report be made via telephone hotline, but some, like Nevada and New York, allow electronic or other forms of report if it's the fastest method. If you have reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect, contact the appropriate state authorities to report it immediately.How long do I have to submit a written report after my initial report?18 states and several territories require a written report following an initial oral report. The window of time for this written report is usually between 24 and 48 hours.These states and territories, and the associated timeframe for the written report, include:AlabamaCalifornia: 36 hoursColorado: As soon as possibleConnecticut: 48 hoursHawaii: As soon as possibleIllinois: 48 hoursIowa: 48 hoursLouisiana: 5 daysMaryland: 48 hoursMassachusetts: 48 hoursMichigan: 72 hoursMinnesota: 72 hours, excluding weekends and holidaysMississippi: As soon as possibleNebraskaNevada: As soon as possibleNew York: 48 hoursPennsylvania: 48 hoursRhode Island: As soon as possibleGuam: 48 hoursPuerto Rico: 48 hoursIn a further nine states, DC, and the Virgin Islands, a written report is required only when requested by the agency that received the initial report. This includes:GeorgiaKansasKentuckyMaineNew HampshireNorth DakotaOhioWashingtonWest VirginiaResponding immediately whenever child abuse or neglect is suspected can save a life. Getting training can help you recognize the signs and know where to report to help you respond promptly. View resources for your state.This blog was updated in December 2023 to include up-to-date information. It was originally published in 2020. Certain professionals in California are required to report actual or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. In fact, failure to do so is a crime and can result in punishments including jail time and fines. Given the unique access these workers have to endangered children, their role as mandated reporters can potentially reduce instances of abuse and neglect. Paul Mones, P.C. advocates for victims of child sexual abuse. Part of our goal in ending childhood abuse is to spread awareness of laws that protect children, like California's mandated reporting requirements. If you were sexually abused as a child, or you know someone who was, talk to us about your legal options. What Is California's Mandated Reporting Law? Under the state's Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, certain employees in California are required to report actual or suspected child abuse or neglect. Not doing so is a crime. Over 50 different professionals are mandated reporters under the law, including: The statute covers numerous types of child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and sexual assault. Mandatory reporters are required to notify the appropriate law enforcement personnel or social service workers within 36 hours of learning about or suspecting an incident of abuse or neglect. What Are Examples Of Child Sexual Abuse Covered By The Law? Because the phrase "child sexual abuse" isn't always clearly understood by mandated reporters, the statute goes to great lengths to make it clear what types of abuse are covered. Mandated reporters are often in a position to be exposed to or access information that the general public might not see. For example, a doctor can identify signs of child sexual abuse that a layperson wouldn't notice. For that reason, it's important for mandated reporters to understand the types of child sexual abuse they have to report. These are some examples: Sexual assault of a child, including rape, statutory rape, and sodomy Touching a child's genitals Production or possession of child pornography Child sex trafficking How To Report Suspected Abuse The report should be made immediately (or as soon as practically possible) over the phone and then followed up in writing. The written report should be sent via fax or electronic submission using the appropriate form. The report has to be made to: A county welfare department/Child Protective Services A police or sheriff's department Included in the mandated reporter's written report should be: The reporter's name and contact information The mandatory reporter's job title The information the reporter suspects indicates abuse or neglect Some reporters are required to take additional steps to report abuse. For example, teachers may have to report separately to their school district or county office of education. It's important to note that these reporting duties do not take the place of reporting to one of the above agencies. What Can Happen If A Mandatory Reporter Fails To Report Abuse? California takes its mandated reporting law seriously. Failure to make a mandated abuse report may result in criminal charges. Mandated reporters are not required to investigate the abuse or neglect themselves. Reporters are immune from civil and criminal liability if they properly made a report and, in fact, no abuse or neglect occurred. This protection applies even if the information contained in the report was obtained outside of the reporter's scope of employment or professional capacity. Reports of suspected abuse are kept confidential, as are the identities of mandated reporters. What Happens After A Report Is Made? The local law enforcement agency is required to investigate once a written report of abuse is filed. In some cases, particularly those involving allegations of abuse or neglect within a family, Child Welfare Services will conduct the investigation. If You Have Questions About Your Duties As A Mandated Reporter, Ask Us Our law firm is dedicated to making sure child sexual abuse victims get the justice they deserve. But we want to prevent such abuse from happening in the first place if we can. If you're a victim of such abuse yourself, or you know someone who is, you may have the legal right to seek monetary compensation. Give us a call today to find out more. Paul Mones has been Trusted by Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse Nationwide for Over 35 Years Paul Mones is a California-based attorney who dedicates his practice to representing adult victims of child sexual abuse and sexually abused children. Backed by over 35 years of experience, he has the knowledge and skills to help you obtain fair and just compensation. Paul is licensed in California, Oregon, Massachusetts, and New York. He also routinely collaborates with a network of co-counsel attorneys on child sex abuse cases nationwide. If you or a loved one has been sexually abused as a child, you can trust Paul Mones to fight for your rights. Paul has learned over his decades as an advocate that survivors of child sexual abuse typically experience emotional and psychological trauma that lingers well into their adult years. Although religious institutions, public and private schools, youth programs, and family members have a duty to protect children, these hallowed institutions have failed to protect tens of thousands from sexual abuse by trusted adult leaders. Silenced by the horrors of abuse many victims have been hiding in the shadows for decades. The best way for survivors to find justice is to file a civil lawsuit to recover meaningful and just compensation. See Paul's interview in an upcoming documentary "Be Prepared" Courtney Kiehl is an attorney and advocate for survivors of sexual abuse. Before she came to work for Paul, she founded A.C.H.E. (Abused Children Heard Everywhere) as a response to her own experience with sexual abuse by her gymnastics coach and has spent the last fifteen years working on related issues. She also serves as a Fellow for CHILD USA's Game Over: Commission to Protect Youth Athletes. Read more about Courtney's journey here: A Survivor Shares Her Strength Listen to Courtney's thoughts about the unique vulnerability of youth athletes here: One in Ten Podcast View Courtney's Bio Contact Paul Mones & Get Help Today If you want to be represented by a law firm whose practice is 100% devoted to representing survivors of sexual abuse, then contact us. If you want a law firm with a small number of experienced lawyers who provide you the personal attention you deserve as opposed to being taken care of by an inexperienced associate in a big law firm, then contact us. There are very few law firms in the nation whose sole focus is advocating for sexual abuse survivors and we are proud to say that Paul Mones, P.C. is one of those law firms. Verdicts & Results Paul Has Achieved Over the course of his career, Paul has obtained millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements for clients all over the nation. Although every case is different and past results therefore do not guarantee success in any particular case, these kinds of results do reflect Paul's hard work and dedication to his clients. Paul Mones obtained the largest verdict ever against the Boy Scouts of America Paul Mones obtained one of the largest judgments nationwide against the Roman Catholic Church What Clients Say About Working with Paul Mones Every case is different and past results therefore do not guarantee success in any particular case, these testimonials do show Paul's close relationship with the client's he represents. "For years I was torn, fearful and ashamed to tell the truth about what had happened to me at the hand of someone whom represented an organization I trusted and admired. This truth has also provided me the opportunity to feel freedom from a situation that was never of my own doing, my wishes or part of my plan. There is a responsibility that victims of abuse share…their truth can perhaps save another young person from the burden of a similar fate of consequence. If it helps only one beside myself, then it was worth it. Only Paul's steadfast support and his understanding devotion to seeing the correct and right thing through…gave me the strength to bring mine into the light. I will be forever grateful to him for standing beside me." "Paul worked diligently on my case which resulted in an outcome that I could not be more happy with. His passion for helping abuse survivors has allowed him to enter a world of much sorrow and pain. His courage in fighting through that world in order to reach me is what ultimately saved my life. Pulling me out of the darkness of my past and leading me into a bright future, Paul has helped restore my life." "Having Paul represent me in my sexual abuse case was an absolute blessing. From day one, he demonstrated compassion and understanding. He lead me through the legal process so easily it was amazing!! Paul is the best attorney you could have in your corner." Paul Mones is a leading nationwide advocate of sexual abuse victims, having represented hundreds of sexual abuse survivors. Although child sexual abuse is a serious problem across the nation, some states are making it easier for victims to pursue claims against their abusers. In New York, for example, the Child Victim's Act extended the statute of limitations so that survivors can file a claim until they are 55 years old. A similar initiative in California goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2020, giving victims of child sexual abuse until the age of 40 to file a claim. Attorney Paul Mones is up-to-date on the most recent developments in the laws governing sexual abuse claims. Because he has worked closely with child sexual abuse survivors and their families for many years, Paul profoundly understands the trauma experienced by those who have been sexually victimized as children. When you become his client, he will take the time to listen to your concerns and handle your case with the personal attention it deserves. Although pursuing a claim may mean retrieving painful memories, Paul will offer you a supportive environment in which you feel comfortable sharing your story. Paul Mones will fight to protect your rights and maintain your privacy through what may be an arduous process. Paul will dedicate his skills and resources to conduct a thorough investigation of your claim. This includes conducting an interview with you, often with the assistance of mental health professionals, identifying and interviewing witnesses, including the alleged perpetrator, as well as individuals in positions of responsibility who may have been complicit in the abuser's crimes. As daunting as pursuing a child sexual abuse claim may be, Paul Mones will make the law work for you and fight for the compensation and justice you deserve. If you were victimized sexually while in the care of a religious group, school, youth program, or any other entity or person charged with protecting children, you are likely afraid and angry. The sense of betrayal may have impacted you in many ways, lasting well into your adult years. Similarly, parents of children who have been sexually abused often experience guilt for unknowingly placing their children in harm's way. Paul Mones believes that it is imperative to hold offenders accountable and pierce the veil of organizations that attempt to deny liability and even work to protect the perpetrators. For over 35 years, Paul has worked with other attorneys, lawmakers, and victim's rights groups across the nation to combat child sexual abuse, and he is highly regarded for being a dedicated advocate of children and families. For victims of sexual abuse, choosing an attorney to represent you is a challenging and often stress-inducing choice. Because it is a critical, life-changing decision to seek justice from the institution or person responsible for molesting you, choosing the right attorney is of paramount importance. Therefore, after closely looking at my website, I urge you to do the same with other attorneys' websites you may be considering hiring and to speak with us, whether by phone or in person. Learn More about Choosing an Attorney Absolutely not. Child molesters disappear into the fabric of the culture they're living in. They often just seem like eager people, ready to help with a single call. You may have a queasy feeling about someone in your child's life that you can't ignore, though. When people are interviewed typically after these cases are over, they say, "You know, I always saw that so-and-so, he always wanted to be around my kid, but I thought he just was being nice about it because my kid never complained." It's often that person who you just weren't sure of at the outset, so it's important to monitor your child's relationships with other adults. Child molesters who work or volunteer in youth programs go out of their way to be with your child. Your son or daughter's teacher or Boy Scout leader may show up at your home to take your child to a music lesson or shopping for clothing even if you didn't call them. Ironically, they are the person you can always count on to show a great interest in your child, buying presents, taking them out for special dinners, etc. It's likely at least one child you know has been a victim of abuse. One in four girls have been sexually abused. One in six boys has been sexually abused. View All FAQs Paul Mones is Not Just an Attorney - He is An Advocate for the rights of Abuse Survivors While prosecutors take sex crimes against children very seriously today, thousands of people have been victimized over the course of decades by priests, rabbis, other clergy members, scoutmasters, teachers, coaches, youth leaders, as well as parents and other family members. Although a conviction for child sexual abuse carries criminal penalties, victims also have a right to seek civil damages. When you consult Paul Mones, you can rest assured that justice will be served. Paul devotes his practice entirely to fighting for sexual abuse victims. He has a proven track record of winning significant jury awards and a well-earned reputation as a national advocate of sex abuse victims. Through his decades of working on behalf of victims, he has been humbled by their strength and courage in acknowledging the emotional harm they have suffered. Paul also profoundly understands the emotional and psychological obstacles victims face in holding their abusers and the institutions in which they flourish accountable in a court of law. Paul Mones eradicates those obstacles by providing his clients with powerful representation and caring personal service. Paul routinely collaborates with a respected network of psychologists and counselors to develop cases as well as to provide victims with the emotional support they need to face this challenge and confront their abusers. Certainly, no amount of money can erase your memories of being abused as a child or the years of pain you have endured, but filing a lawsuit can help you regain your bearings and enable you to move on with your life. Coming forward can also help prevent other children from being victimized. You should know that you may still have a valid claim even if the offender has not been charged with or convicted of a sex crime. Paul Mones is keenly aware that you may not have experience with the legal system, which is why he will take the time to explain all your rights and guide you through the entire process. Filing a lawsuit and confronting your abuser may seem intimidating, but Paul will provide you with strength and support and make your cause his cause. Although each case is unique, you may be entitled to damages for pain and suffering, emotional distress, expenses for psychological counseling, and other fair and just compensation. If you have been the victim of child abuse, don't suffer in silence. Contact Paul Mones today and let the healing begin. When parents send their children to school, they expect that they will be safe and taken care of, and that usually is the case. Unfortunately, both at school and elsewhere, kids are vulnerable to people who don't have their best interests at heart. All too often, it is even the child's parent or guardian who is not treating them properly.In most states, teachers and other school employees are mandated reporters, and in some states, every single person is considered a mandated reporter. In a nutshell, this means teachers are legally obligated to report any signs of abuse or neglect of a child to the appropriate authorities immediately. Specific requirements and laws vary by state; this guide will focus on what the majority of states follow. Click here to find out what is required in your state.Whether you are a student, parent, or teacher, understanding what abuse is and what you can do about it is key to stopping it from happening. Sadly, experienced child abusers are very skilled at making children think they aren't actually being abused, or that the abuse is their fault.This guide will touch on what abuse is and what mandated reporters are required to do, but the bottom line is, if you suspect abuse or have been abused yourself, you should seek help immediately, regardless of the situation.According to childhelp.org,Child abuse is when a parent or caregiver, whether through action or failing to act, causes injury, death, emotional harm or risk of serious harm to a child. There are many forms of child maltreatment, including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation and emotional abuse.Childhelp also offers full definitions and explanations of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as neglect. Under these definitions, there are many acts or failures to act that can be considered child abuse. Even if you are not sure whether what you are witnessing is child abuse or not, it is better to err on the side of caution when it comes to protecting a child. If you're wrong and you look into the issue more, then there is no harm done. If you're right, however, and you decide not to look into the issue, you could unintentionally be subjecting a child to even more abuse.The simple fact that school employees are mandated reporters has ramifications for different subsets of the school population.If you are a teacher, this means that you have not only a moral obligation to protect the children in your care, but you also have a legal obligation to protect them. It's a sad but true fact that you might be the only adult in that child's life that cares enough about them to even notice, let alone report, abuse or neglect. This is a responsibility that is not to be taken lightly.If you are afraid to make a report for fear of your identity being linked to the report, know that in most cases, you will remain anonymous unless the case ends up in court. It is understandable to fear for your own safety in an extreme situation, but also think about how scared that child must be.It's also very important that you are honest with your students, especially if you teach a subject that encourages students to open up, such as writing or art. You should be honest and up front with your students that while you encourage them to express themselves and will keep their secrets safe, there are certain things that you are obligated to report.Explain to your students that you are a mandated reporter, and what that means. This helps build trust between teachers and students, and it also gives students an easy and non-threatening way to inform an adult they are in danger.It's comforting to know that you're not the only one who has your child's best interest at heart. If you suspect something is happening to your child or one of their friends, you can safely talk to their teacher about the situation. This can be helpful to get a second opinion and learn about what the teacher has observed.However, just because your child's teacher is a mandated reporter and you are not, does not mean that you can't report child abuse as well. You know your child best and you should always follow your instincts as a parent. If you even suspect something is wrong, don't wait for a teacher or someone else to notice as well—do what you need to do to protect your child.Because your child's teachers are mandated reporters, this also means that they could file a report naming you as the suspected abuser. If this happens and there is absolutely no truth to the accusation, remember that it was all done with the safety of your child in mind.If a teacher sees a suspicious bruise on your child or suspects something is wrong, it is always better to be safe than sorry. Be thankful that you have people in your corner who want to protect your child.The fact that your teachers are mandated reporters is really good news for you. It means that you can safely come to them if you are being abused. Sometimes it's easier to go to a teacher than it is to a close family member.It's also important to remember that they are obligated to report any signs of abuse or neglect, though. If you come to your teacher because you need somebody to talk to, you need to understand that they might file a report if they suspect something is wrong, even if you don't come right out and say that something is wrong.This is a good thing, and it shouldn't stop you from confiding in your teachers, but it is something you should be made aware of.As the definition of abuse is very broad, there is a wide range of actions that can prompt a mandated reporter to make a report. It is very important to note that a report should be made even if an employee only suspects abuse.No penalties will be made against an employee who reports suspected abuse. No real harm will come from an investigation that is made when there is no abuse present. However, a lot of harm and further abuse can come from suspecting abuse and not acting on that intuition.Any abuse, regardless of how long ago it happened, should also be reported. Even if the child is no longer in danger of suffering further abuse, reporting the abuse can help catch the abuser, and it can also help the child get set up with counseling. All abuse, can leave lasting trauma, and the sooner a child gets help to work through what has happened to them, the better.According to Susanne Babbel, Ph.D., M.F.T., one of the lasting effects of child abuse can be Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She also notes that…an important aspect of an event (or pattern of events) is that it exceeds the victim's ability to cope and is therefore overwhelming. A child should not have to cope with abuse, and when abuse occurs, a child is not equipped psychologically to process it.The sooner a child is able to get help to cope with their abuse, the more long term effects can be diminished.Another important distinction about mandated reporters is that they are mandated reporters, period. This means that they are always required to report child abuse, not just when they are on duty and not just with the students in their classroom. Abuse or suspected abuse of any child should be reported.For example, if a teacher is at the grocery store on the weekend and sees a child being abused, they should make a report.When making a report, mandated reporters do not need tangible proof of abuse; they simply need to explain the situation that prompted them to suspect abuse. In fact in some states, mandated reporters are required to report suspected abuse or neglect, even if they don't have proof.There are many different ways to witness or suspect abuse or neglect, and what you witness as well as your relationship with the child has a big impact on how you should respond. If you witness abuse in action and you can safely remove the child from the situation, you should do so immediately and call 911.In many scenarios, a mandated reporter will hear about the abuse or suspect abuse through a conversation or a piece of writing from a child. If this is the case, there are few key things for mandated reporters to remember when responding.Don't overreact; simply listen and be there for the child. If you freak out, this could lead the child to freak out and/or feel like they did something wrong. Let them know that they are heard and that you are going to help them.Do your best to gather as much information as possible to help with the investigation when you make a report. Do not, however, ask specific probing questions and do not lead the child in any way. Remember that it's not your duty to investigate.Help the child understand that you believe them and that they did the right thing by coming to you. Also try to make them understand that the abuse is not their fault.If a child discloses an emergency situation to you, call 911 and keep the child with you if necessary.This varies by state, but most states involve a combination of reporting to administrators and/or guidance counselors, as well as reporting to the authorities. Many schools have individual policies for teachers or other employees to report to administration and/or guidance counselors. The report must also go to the appropriate authorities, and this report may be made by the employee who witnesses/suspects the abuse and/or their superior.It is extremely important to remember that as a mandated reporter, it is absolutely your responsibility to make sure the abuse gets reported. Regardless of the policies at your school, you need to make sure there is a report; telling the principal or a guidance counselor is not enough. In most states, this is the law.It's also good practice for the mandated reporter to make the report themselves because they are the one with the first hand information about the abuse. If someone else makes the report, the mandated reporter should at least be with that person so they can offer any additional information to help with the report.When reporting to authorities, always dial 911 if it is an emergency situation and a child is in imminent danger. For other, less urgent situations, different states have different procedures. If you are ever unsure of what to do, you can call the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-422-4453 or check out this document to find numbers to call by state.Any mandated reporter needs to report the suspected abuse as soon as they see or suspect it has happened. If a teacher is driving home from work on Friday afternoon and witnesses a child being neglected, for example, they should not wait until they get to work on Monday to make a report.Some states have laws that the report must be made immediately. For a teacher, this means not waiting until the end of the school day or until their next free period. It could even mean finding someone to cover a class and stepping out in order to make the report.There are some cases where action needs to be taken immediately, while the child is still at school and before they head home for the day. The sooner a report is made, the sooner a child can be removed from a dangerous situation.As a teacher, what if the administration encourages you not to make a report? What if you're told your job could be at stake if you make a report? What if the suspected abuser is an administrator or guidance counselor? What if you report to your superior and they tell you the behavior you are trying to report is normal or happens all the time or is nothing to worry about?None of this matters. File a report. It is your duty and your obligation to love and protect the children in your care. It is actually against the law for your superior to stop you from making a report. Never let anyone bully you into not making a report. It can be easy for someone in power to convince you that what you witnessed is okay or that there is no abuse happening, but you really have to go with your instincts and not stop until things are made right.Even if you are not a mandated reporter, there is absolutely no law saying you can't report child abuse; you don't need a fancy title to protect a child. If you see or suspect abuse or neglect, you can always make a child abuse report. If you aren't sure of what to do, there are many resources and you can always talk to your child's teacher or guidance counselor as well. Since they are most likely trained in recognizing and reporting abuse, they can help walk you through the process and even be with you when you call in the report.Child abuse and neglect happens way too often, and it also goes unreported way too often. Understanding who mandated reporters are and what their duties are can help lessen the underreporting of child abuse.Similar Posts:Preschool – Everything You Need to Know35 of the BEST Educational Apps for Teachers (Updated 2024)Creating Inclusive Classrooms – Strategies and Best Practices United States Federal Law requiring certain Job fields to report abuse In many parts of the world, mandated reporters are people who have regular contact with vulnerable people such as children, disabled persons, and senior citizens, and are therefore legally required to ensure a report is made when abuse is observed or suspected. Specific details vary across jurisdictions—the abuse that must be reported may include neglect, or financial, physical, sexual, or other types of abuse. Mandated reporters may include paid or unpaid people who have assumed full or intermittent responsibility for the care of a child, dependent adult, or elder. In 1962, United States doctors C. Henry Kempe and Brandt Steele published "The Battered Child Syndrome,"[1][2] which helped doctors identify child abuse, its effects, and the need to report serious physical abuse to legal authorities. Its publication changed the prevalent views in the United States, where child abuse was previously seen as uncommon, and not a regular issue.[3] In 1974, the United States Congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), which provides funds to states for development of Child Protective Services (CPS) and hotlines to prevent serious injuries to children. These laws and the media and advocacy coverage and research brought about a gradual change in societal expectations on reporting in the United States and, at different rates, in other western nations.[4][5] Originally created to respond to physical abuse, reporting systems in various countries began to expand[when?] to address sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, and exposure to domestic abuse. This expansion was accompanied by broader requirements for reporting abuse: previously reports were only submitted when an incident caused serious physical injury, but as the definitions changed, more minor physical injuries and developmental and psychological trauma began to be included as well.[6] Nationwide, there was a 2348% increase in hotline calls from 150,000 in 1963 to 3.3 million in 2009.[7] In 2011, there were 3.4 million calls.[8] From 1992 to 2009 in the US, substantiated cases of sexual abuse declined 62%, physical abuse decreased 56% and neglect 10%. About 1% of the child population are substantiated victims of abuse.[9] There are approximately 3.6 million calls each year nationwide: 9,000/day, 63,000/week,[8] affecting on average 1 out of 10 U.S. families with children under the age of 18 each year (there are 32.2 million such families).[10] From 1998 to 2011 there were a total of 43 million hotline calls.[8] Of those substantiated, over half are minor situations and many are situations where the worker thinks something may happen in the future. Each year, approximately 85% of hotline calls either do not warrant investigation or are not substantiated. Approximately 78% of all investigations are unsubstantiated and approximately 22% are substantiated, with around 9% where "alternative responses" are offered in some states, which have a focus on working with the family to address issues rather than confirming maltreatment.[11] In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department for Children and Families (DCF) define child maltreatment as any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child.[12] There are four major categories of child abuse: neglect, physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, and sexual abuse. Neglect may include abandonment, denial of proper care and attention physically, emotionally, or morally, or living under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to well-being. Typically, minimum requirements for what must be reported include: A description of how the reporter learned of the injuries or neglect and of any actions taken to assist Information on previous injuries, assaults, neglect or financial abuses (if known) The date, time, nature, and extent of the abuse or neglect (if known) The date of the report The perpetrator's name, address, and relationship to the (possible) victim (if known) The reporter's name, agency, position, address, telephone number, and signature. Typically, reporters are encouraged to report their suspicions and not to investigate or wait for absolute proof, which can lead to further harm directed at the suspected victim, and allow for perpetrators to prepare their defence through intimidation. The investigation of the abuse is then left to professionals. Some jurisdictions allow clear protections for reports made in good faith, protecting the disclosure of the reporter's name. Innocence should be presumed unless and until evidence establishing guilt is obtained and it must be remembered that only suspicions are being reported.[13] Some states require reporting of additional categories of mistreatment. For example, Kentucky requires all citizens to report not only suspected abuse and neglect, but also specifically requires reporting of suspected trafficking or female genital mutilation of children.[14] States frequently amend their laws, but as of 2019, all States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have statutes identifying persons who are required to report suspected child maltreatment to an appropriate agency.[15] Approximately 48 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands designate professions whose members are mandated by law to report child maltreatment. Mandated professions may include, but are not limited to the following:[15] Child care providers Caregivers Clergy, clergy–penitent privileged communication is exempt in most states. Counselors and other mental health professionals Medical examiners and coroners Health care providers Police and other law enforcement officers School teachers, coaches, school counselors, principals and other school personnel Social workers Women's Health clinic practitioners (in some states) Film Developers (for child pornography purposes) As of April 2019[update], any person who suspects child abuse or neglect is required to report suspected abuse or neglect regardless of profession in 18 States and Puerto Rico. In all other States, territories, and the District of Columbia, any person is permitted to report. These voluntary reporters of abuse are often referred to as "permissive reporters."[15] Mandated reporters are usually required to give their name when they make a report, but may request anonymity to protect their privacy. A mandated reporter who knowingly makes a false report will ordinarily have their identity disclosed to the appropriate law enforcement agency, and their identity may be disclosed to the alleged perpetrator of the reported abuse or neglect. A mandated reporter may be subject to penalties, though immunity from civil or criminal liability is granted to reporters who report in good faith. Immunity is also granted to reporters who, in good faith, have not reported. However, failure to report suspected abuse or neglect could result in fines or other sanctions, such as participation in a training program. Failure to act may result in even stiffer penalties, such as civil litigation or criminal prosecution with the prospect of potential imprisonment. Conflicts between a mandated reporter's duties and some privileged communication statutes are common but, in general, attorney–client privileges and clergy–penitent privileges are usually exempt from mandatory reporting. In some states in the US, Psychiatrist and PhD. psychologists are also exempt from mandatory reporting.[16] "Clergy–penitent privilege" is privileged communication that protects communication between a member of the clergy and a communicant, who shares information in confidence. When applied, neither the minister nor the "penitent" can be forced to testify in court, by deposition, or other legal proceedings, about the contents of the communication.[17] Most US states provide the privilege, typically in rules of evidence or civil procedure, and the confidentiality privilege has also been extended to non-Catholic clergy and non-Sacramental counseling.[18] Each year in the US approximately 2 million allegations are investigated, affecting 1 out of 16 families in the US with children under 18.[11] Law enforcement or public health agencies are responsible for immediately evaluating all reports of abuse. Referrals in most states are screened to determine which are investigated – many clearly do not constitute abuse or neglect, or provide insufficient information to conduct an investigation. Rates of screening vary considerably between states – some investigate all reports, others screen out between 5% and 78% in this manner.[19] When reports contain sufficient information to warrant an investigation, authorities must make efforts within a reasonable time frame to begin (and conclude) an effective investigation, particularly when there is an imminent risk of physical harm or another emergency. Agencies should coordinate activities to minimize impacts upon the (possible) victim. In the US in 1985 the Children Advocacy Center model was founded, including "Multi-Discipline Teams" (law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health) to interview, treat, manage and prosecute child abuse cases.[20] Consent to interview(s) of the (possible) victim often must be obtained from guardians, unless there is reason to believe such person is the alleged perpetrator. In cases where serious abuse or neglect is substantiated, local law enforcement, prosecutors or other public offices must be notified, and a copy of the investigation report must be sent. US school districts adopted policies, following the 9th Circuit's ruling in Greene v. Camreta, requiring police or state case workers to produce a warrant, court order, parental permission or exigent circumstances prior to interviewing a student on school grounds as part of a sexual abuse investigation.[21] Total U.S. maltreatment substantiation annual rate is less than 1% of U.S. child population (9.3 per 1000 non-duplicates).[22] Of those: Neglect is 78.3% Physical Abuse is 17.8% Sexual Abuse is 9.5% Psychological Maltreatment is 7.6%[22] The % of US children affected annually by substantiated neglect, physical and sexual abuse: Neglect – less than ¾ of 1% (74.7 per 10,000) Physical Abuse – less than 1/5th of 1% (16.2 per 10,000) Sexual Abuse – less than 1/10th of 1% (8.6 per 10,000)[23] An attempt to appeal a decision is administrative, involving a review within the CPS agency, by CPS staff.[24] CAPTA requires that states have procedures for expunging records. Procedures for doing so vary and may not be adhered. Ten states do not have provisions.[25] Arkansas, a CAPTA compliant state and a leader in addressing problems with the Child Maltreatment Registry has laws and procedures to remove one's name from the Central Abuse Registry after one year. (see Arkansas Department of Human Services Policy and Procedure Manual).[26] CPS can take a child into protective custody with assistance from the police. Each day in the US approximately 700 children are removed from their parents to protect them from alleged abuse or neglect.[27] In 2001, one US child every 5 minutes (approximately 100,000 children) was removed from their family who was later determined not to be maltreated.[27] Due to the human impact of removal, the law in the US requires it to be used sparingly. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides a fundamental right to family integrity, requiring the state to provide notice and a hearing before forcibly separating a parent and child- with the exception of occasions when a child's life or health is in danger. Most removals are done on an emergency basis, bypassing the courts but requiring a post removal hearing.[27] Critics of investigations into reports of child abuse state that A child may be wrongfully removed. Long, repeated interrogations and physical examinations can leave emotional scars. Even if not removed, there may be ongoing fear, distrust and insecurity. Long term foster care can leave lasting psychological scars and do irreparable damage to the parent/child bond. An accusation of wrongdoing may disrupt a family even if allegations are dismissed.[28] Often, threats and an assumption of guilt over innocence lead to feelings of powerlessness, inadequacy, depression, denial of due process and liberties, reputations tarnished and privacy invaded, and legal consequences if assumed guilty.[27] There may be economic harm due to the need to obtain legal representation to defend one's self and comply with the requirements demanded of them. Often, names are listed on CPS Central Registries/databases (different from Sex Abuse Registries) for decades, used for employment and licensing background checks.[citation needed] Frequently an accusation triggers placement of a person's name on the registry without being charged or convicted of a crime, resulting in a registry with "false-positives" entangled with wrongdoers.[citation needed] There is a 1.2–12.3% recidivism rate (repeat substantiations within 6 months of initial substantiations).[29] Training is typically offered wherever mandated reporting laws are enforced, entailing matters such as recognition of abuse and neglect, what must be reported, how to report it, anonymity, immunity and penalties. Training programs often use educational materials that use pat phrases and ambiguous indicators: e.g. defining emotional abuse to include the failure to provide a child with "adequate love" or reporting children who are withdrawn or shy as well as children who are friendly to strangers, despite the fact that only a small minority of children who exhibit such behaviors have been abused.[30][13] Training is available through a variety of sources. Many local child protective service organizations conduct classroom training. Training is also available through video and web-based courses. Critics state that mandatory reporting may contribute to overloading the child welfare system and exacerbate needless investigations and separations of children from their parents.[31] It is predicted that expanding the list of mandated reporters or creating tougher penalties for failure to report will increase the number of unfounded reports.[32] Mandatory reporting is also criticized because it jeopardizes the ability of people to seek community-based treatment or maintain a therapeutic relationship with professionals for fear of being reported.[33] It has also been criticized for disproportionately affecting African-American families.[34] [page needed] Critics also state that much that is now defined as child abuse and neglect (due to vague and broad laws) does not merit governmental interference.[35] Unsubstantiated rates are enormous and go beyond anything reasonably needed and should concern everyone.[13][36] [editorializing] Emotions about child abuse and sensational media coverage has led to an overreaction by some professionals and citizens, who report many cases that do not amount to child abuse.[13] Eagerness to protect children cannot be allowed to overcome commitment to fairness and due process.[13][36][editorializing] A further criticism is that mandatory reporting laws have had unintended consequences. Individuals, including juveniles, who have never been convicted of anything may be placed on child abuse registries for decades, limiting educational and employment opportunities due to background checks. Unnecessary investigation by professionals (under threat of prosecution) discourages fellow citizens from taking positive neighborhood action with families in trouble, as they may consider that their responsibilities have been met when they call in an anonymous hotline.[35] Better publicized and widely known use of statistics may have important implications for public policy.[9] This would reduce hysteria about child abuse, which would lower rhetoric and high rates of unfounded reporting. This would reduce the burden on child protection agencies and would be fairer to the children and parents involved.[13]

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