

mandated reporter (n.):

any adult professional* who works with children; legally responsible for reporting suspected or disclosed abuse.

**In some states, all adults are considered mandated reporters*

reporting based on a reasonable suspicion of abuse is protected from legal risks

provide details of:

- the child's name
- the address
- age of the child
- the name or names of parents or guardians
- the type of abuse
- the name of the person committing the abuse (if known) and their relationship with the child

best practices:

- + Listen to the child and only ask open-ended questions (instead of leading questions, which could cause further harm); don't investigate for physical signs of abuse.
- + Do not make false promises to the child, such as keeping your conversation a secret. Trained professionals need to collect facts and details, and this often includes talking with the child.
- + Most states require that the person with reasonable suspicion should make the report, so don't delegate the task, even to your supervisor.
- + Report **as soon as possible** to your local law enforcement agency, child protection services, or both.



for more information on reporting child sexual abuse, visit www.D2L.org