



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Suspected Child Maltreatment Mandated Reporting Policy

Early childhood experiences of abuse or neglect can increase the probability of poor developmental outcomes, such as learning, behavior, physical and mental health problems for children which can have lifelong implications.

First Things First service providers must understand their legal and ethical obligation to identify and report cases of suspected child maltreatment; and must ensure their staff receive professional development and information concerning:

- Signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect, including physical, sexual, verbal, and emotional abuse;
- State laws (A.R.S. §13-3620.A) and procedures that protect children against abuse and neglect; and
- Procedures for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate community agency (i.e., Department of Child Safety, law enforcement or the tribal child welfare agency) and follow up to ensure that action has been taken (A.R.S. § 8-807.R). Also, when appropriate, procedures professionals can utilize to inform parents or guardians that a referral has been made.

Arizona Revised Statute requires direct service providers who suspect that a child has received a non-accidental injury or has been neglected, to report their concerns to the Department of Child Safety Child Abuse Hotline or local law enforcement (A.R.S §13-3620.A).

Federal law, Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, requires mandated personnel to immediately report suspected abuse or neglect to the local child welfare agency or local law enforcement when the maltreatment occurred on federally recognized tribal land (P.L. 101-630; 18 U.S.C. § 1169 (a)).

All emergency situations (i.e., a child faces an immediate risk of abuse or neglect) and concerns for the safety of a child due to abuse, neglect or abandonment must be reported by:

- Calling 911 *or* Calling Child Abuse Hotline [1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445)], *or*
- Contacting the appropriate Tribal Law Enforcement *or* Tribal Child Welfare Agency for any child that resides within the boundaries of a federally recognized tribe, *and/or*
- Indian Country Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-663-5155.
- TDD: 602-530-1831 (1-800-530-1831).

Non-emergency concerns may be submitted via the Online Reporting Service for Mandated Reporters at <https://dcs.az.gov/services/suspect-abuse-report-it-now>

For more information about Mandated Reporting training opportunities go to:

http://childhelpinfocenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=135&Itemid=164