



CALIFORNIA MANDATED REPORTING

# HOW TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

California school district and office of education employees are **legally required** to report suspected child abuse and neglect. This includes sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse or neglect of anyone under the age of 18.

Employees must report any **reasonable suspicion** that a child has been abused or neglected—no evidence is required to report. The case will be investigated by law enforcement and/or child welfare services—do not investigate on your own.

## HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

You must report by phone and in writing.

**Immediately make a phone report** to child welfare services, the police or sheriff’s department.

**Within 36 hours a written report** (form 8572) must be sent, faxed or submitted electronically.

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ **Police Department** \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ **Child Welfare Services** \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ **Sheriff’s Department** \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_



Form 8572 can be downloaded at

[https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/childabuse/ss\\_8572.pdf](https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/childabuse/ss_8572.pdf)

**For the complete law and a list of mandated reporters refer to California Penal Codes 11164-11174.3**

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) states that the name of the mandated reporter is strictly confidential, although it is provided to investigative parties working on the case.

Under state law, mandated reporters cannot be held liable in civil or criminal court when reporting as required; however, under federal law mandated reporters only have immunity for reports made in good faith.

Failure to report concerns of child abuse or neglect is considered a misdemeanor and is punishable in California by six months in jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine.



**Mandated Reporting information can be found at [www.mandatedreporterca.com](http://www.mandatedreporterca.com)**