

Child Abuse and Neglect Mandated Reporting

Training PowerPoint

2016-2017

Mansfield Public Schools

Who is a Mandated Reporter?

*This is the amended law as of July 8, 2008

- **Massachusetts General Law Chapter 119, Section 51A, defines MANDATED REPORTERS as one**

". . . . who, in his profession shall have reasonable cause to believe that a child under the age of eighteen years is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse inflicted upon him which causes harm or substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare including sexual abuse, or from neglect, including malnutrition, or who is determined to be physically dependent upon an addictive drug at birth, shall immediately report such condition to the department by oral communication and by making a written report within forty-eight hours after such oral communication."

- **This includes ALL staff at MPS. When in doubt, file.**

As a Mandated Reporter, What are My Responsibilities?

- Immediately notify school administration, your administrator may work with you to file and notifying DCF of the suspected abuse. Meeting and discussing the incident with the school administrator about the student's disclosure usually follows filing a 51A report together. If your superior is not available, YOU MUST FILE A REPORT WITH DCF (508) 821-7000.
- A mandated reporter suspecting abuse must notify DSS immediately by telephone and follow up with written report within 48 hours. There are no exceptions!
- If you have a question about a possible abuse case and would like to speak with a professional about it. The statewide hotline to contact DSS is 1-800-792-5200.

How are Abuse and Neglect Defined?

- **Abuse** means the non-accidental commission of any act by a caretaker upon a child under 18 which causes a substantial risk of (or results in) physical injury, emotional injury, or sexual offense under the law. This definition is not dependent upon location; it includes out-of-home or in-home setting.
 - **Physical injury** means death, fracture, burns, impairment of organs, soft tissue swelling, and skin bruising, cuts etc.
 - **Emotional injury** means impairment of or disorder of intellectual or psychological capacity of a child as evidenced in observable and substantial reduction in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior.

How are Abuse and Neglect Defined?

- **Neglect** means failure by a caretaker, either deliberately or through negligence or inability, to take those actions necessary to provide a child with minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter medical care, supervision, emotional stability and growth, or other essential care provided, however, that such inability is not due solely to inadequate economic resources or solely to the existence of a handicapping condition. This definition is not dependent upon location; it can occur while the child is in an out-of-home or in-home setting.

Informational Points Not Otherwise Covered

- Educators must be familiar with the contents of Chap. 119 Section 51A
- New law c176 requires training for all mandated reporters and increase the fines for failure to file abuse reports to \$5,000.00, and fines for filing frivolous reports to \$2,000.00.

Material Sources

Mansfield works with Bristol County DCF.
Call (508)821-7000 to file a 51A.

Material was gathered from [MA DESE](#) and
the [Department of Children and Families](#).

Signature

To document that you have read and understand the material provided in this **Mandated Reporter Child Abuse and Neglect Policies and Requirements** Training please use the signature page that will be found in your school mailbox.

Please sign the form as acknowledgement of completing this training presentation, and provide a copy of the signature page to your school office by Friday, September 30, 2016. Thank you.