



Child Maltreatment

Policy Statement:

Every staff member or volunteer of Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods who becomes aware of or has suspicion of child abuse or neglect must immediately report to Club leadership. Club leadership is responsible for reporting the incident immediately to the appropriate authorities according to statewide mandated reporting laws, as well as to Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) within 24 hours via the critical incident system.

Public law 93-247 defined “child abuse and neglect as the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a person who is responsible for the child’s welfare, under circumstances which indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened. The act of infliction injury or allowing injury to result, rather than the degree of injury, is the determinant of intervention.”

Reportable abuse includes the following;

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Child exploitation, pornography, and prostitution
- Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment
- Neglect
- Child endangerment

Response to Abuse:

Once abuse is suspected staff shall:

1. Inform a Supervisor.
2. Assess the member only to the extent necessary to confirm the suspicion. Respect the member’s privacy.
3. Don’t go beyond assessment. Once you have enough information to suspect possible abuse turn it over to Child Welfare Services.
4. Contact CWS as soon as reasonably possible and speak to a social worker to report the incident by phone. Make sure to get the contact’s name for reporting purposes. Fill out a Suspected Child Abuse Report.
5. Don’t judge, investigate, treat, or counsel. Keep the interview strictly confidential.
6. If Police or CWS wants to interview the member, check their identification and then assist them in any way possible.
7. Submit complete the Suspected Child Abuse Report within 36 hours.

Report To: Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services,
Social Services Branch
929 Koster St. Eureka CA. 95501
24 hour hotline (707) 445-6180



CHILD ABUSE ORIENTATION

Preventive Action:

- All staff will be oriented on mandated reporting procedures.
- All staff will be oriented regarding warning signs and indicators of child abuse and neglect.
- All staff will be trained regarding appropriate discipline and supervision of members.

All staff members will participate in a yearly mandated reports training provide by Child Welfare Services. New staff will participate in a four hour online training as instructed by their supervisor within the first week of employment. Orientation can be found at <http://www.mandatedreporterca.com/training/training.htm>

Who Must Report:

Child Abuse Reporting Law, Section 11165.6 of the California Penal Code requires that any suspected case of child abuse, sexual abuse (Section 11165.1), neglect (Section 11165.2) or physical injury incurred by other than accidental means must be reported to Eureka Police Department at (707) 441-4060 or the Humboldt County Sherriff Department at 1-707-445-7251 or Child Welfare Service 1-707-388-6600, Children's Protective Service at 1-707-445-6180.

Any child care custodian (teacher, administrative officer, supervisor of child welfare and attendance, or certificated pupil personnel employee of any public or private school; an administrator of a public or private day camp; a licensee, an administrator, or an employee of a community care facility licensed to care for children; head start teacher; a licensing worker or licensing evaluator; public assistance worker; employee of a child care institution including, but not limited to, foster parents, group home personnel and personnel of residential care facilities; a social worker or probation officer; any "medical practitioner": (physician and surgeon, psychiatrist, psychologist, dentist, resident, intern, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, dental hygienist, medical technician or paramedic); and "non-medical practitioner" (county health employee, coroner, marriage, family, or child counselor, or a religious practitioner); any commercial film and photographic print processor, must report known or suspected instance of child abuse.

Time:

Report immediately or as soon as possible by telephone, and send a written report within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. Section 11166(g) of the California Penal Code. When two or more persons, who are required to report, jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, and when there is agreement among them, the telephone report may be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement and a single report may be made and signed by the selected member of the reporting team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter make the report.



Failure to Report:

Any mandated reporter who fails to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect as required by Section 11165.9(3)(b) of the California Penal Code is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months confinement in a county jail or by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by both that fine and punishment.

A child in protective custody whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect shall, within 36 hours, send or have sent to the attorney who represents the child in dependency court, a copy of the report prepared in accordance with Section 11166 of the California Penal Code. The agency shall maintain a copy of the written report. All information requested by the attorney for the child or the child's guardian ad litem shall be provided by the agency within 30 days of the request.