

Valuing Children    Strengthening Families    Engaging Communities



**"It Shouldn't Hurt to be a Child"**  
Mandatory Reporting Workshop

Presented by:

Theresa Johnson-Osborn  
Director of Prevention Services/  
Training & Support



**Prevent Child Abuse**  
Louisiana

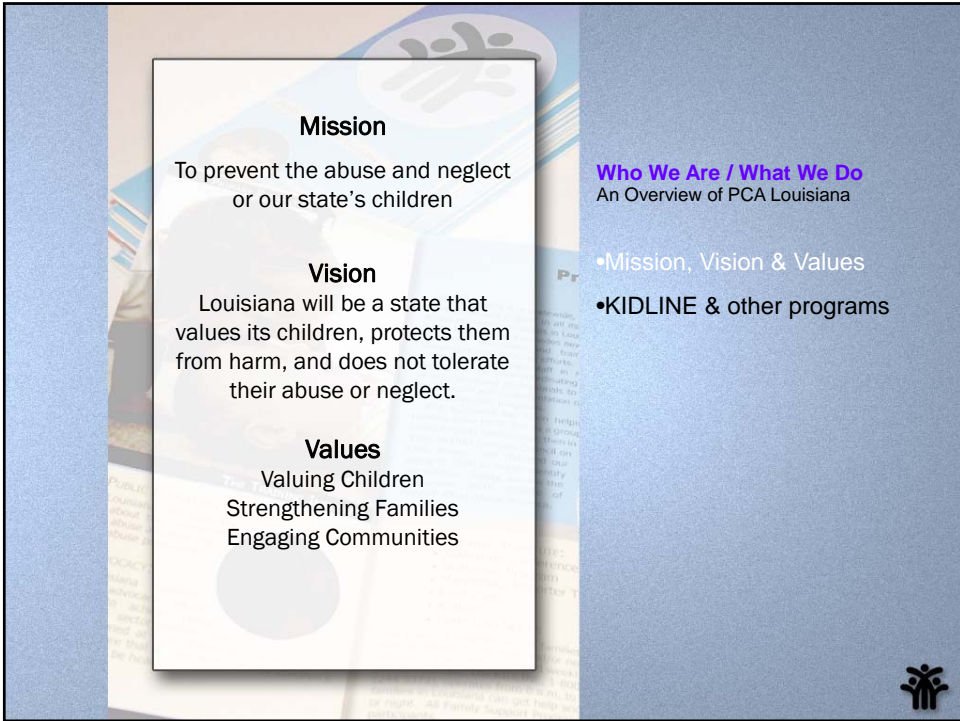
[www.pcal.org](http://www.pcal.org)



**Who We Are / What We Do**  
An Overview of PCA Louisiana

- Mission, Vision & Values
- Under Redesign in 2009--  
Regional Offices moved to  
Mobile Service Teams
- KIDLINE & other programs





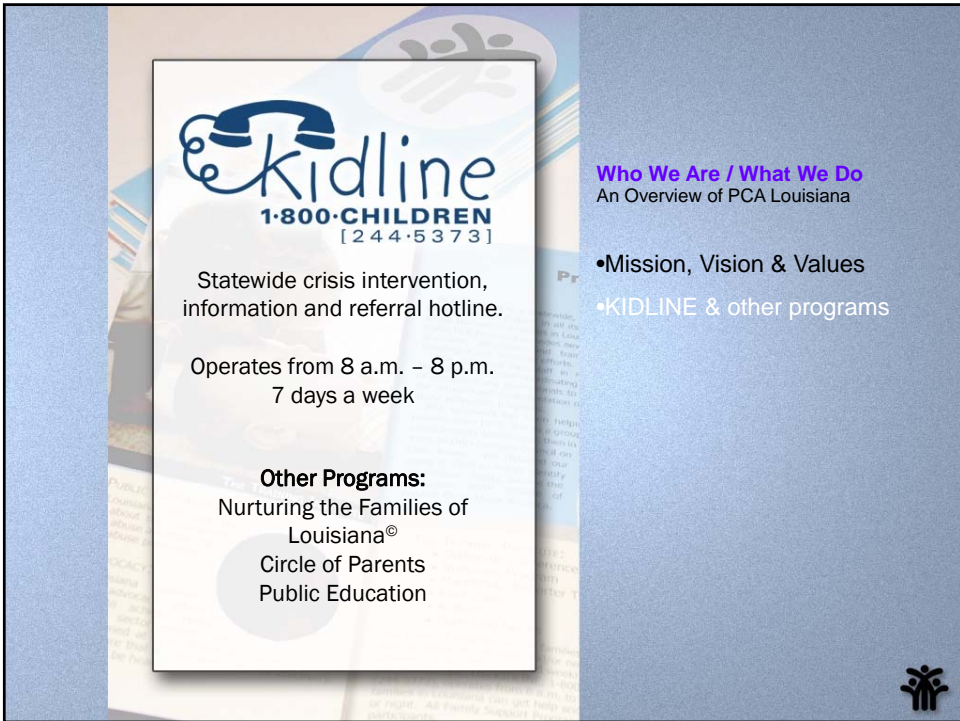

**Mission**  
To prevent the abuse and neglect or our state's children


**Vision**  
Louisiana will be a state that values its children, protects them from harm, and does not tolerate their abuse or neglect.

**Values**  
Valuing Children  
Strengthening Families  
Engaging Communities

**Who We Are / What We Do**  
An Overview of PCA Louisiana

- Mission, Vision & Values
- KIDLINE & other programs



  
**1-800-CHILDREN**  
[ 2 4 4 . 5 3 7 3 ]


Statewide crisis intervention, information and referral hotline.

Operates from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
7 days a week

**Other Programs:**  
Nurturing the Families of Louisiana®  
Circle of Parents  
Public Education


**Who We Are / What We Do**  
An Overview of PCA Louisiana

- Mission, Vision & Values
- KIDLINE & other programs

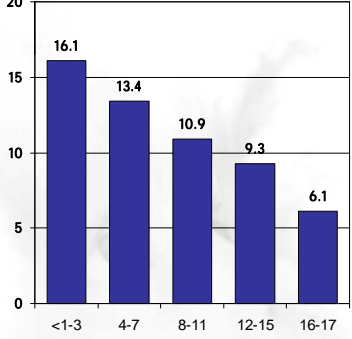


- 1874- Mary Ellen
- 1940s- Medical Literature
- 1961- Battered Child Syndrome  
(Dr. Henry C. Kempe)
- 1970- State Laws
- 1974- CAPTA: Reauthorized every six years
- 1992- Louisiana Children's Code

**History of Child Abuse and Neglect**  
Mary Ellen's Story



**Victimization Rates by Age Group  
(per 1,000 children)**




Age Group	Victimization Rate (per 1,000 children)
<1-3	16.1
4-7	13.4
8-11	10.9
12-15	9.3
16-17	6.1

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families. *Child Maltreatment 2004*

**Scope of Child Abuse**  
Brief Statistical Rundown

- Nationwide
- Statewide





Fiscal Year 2007

- Total valid allegations of child abuse: 7,659
- Dept. of Social Services investigated 23,911 cases
- Some children were victims in multiple investigations.
- About 5,000 children in foster care/protective state custody.

*\*Data taken from the DSS/OCS TIPS TIQ 1021 report.*


**Scope of Child Abuse**  
Brief Statistical Rundown


- Nationwide
- Statewide



**Goals of Workshop**  
What You Will Learn

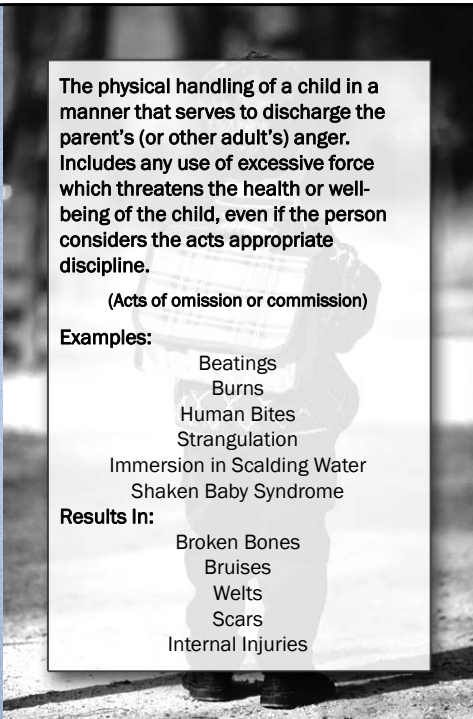

- Recognize
- Report
- Legal Obligation





**Forms of Abuse**  
Acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental or emotional health of a child.

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Verbal



**The physical handling of a child in a manner that serves to discharge the parent's (or other adult's) anger. Includes any use of excessive force which threatens the health or well-being of the child, even if the person considers the acts appropriate discipline.**

(Acts of omission or commission)

**Examples:**


- Beatings
- Burns
- Human Bites
- Strangulation
- Immersion in Scalding Water
- Shaken Baby Syndrome

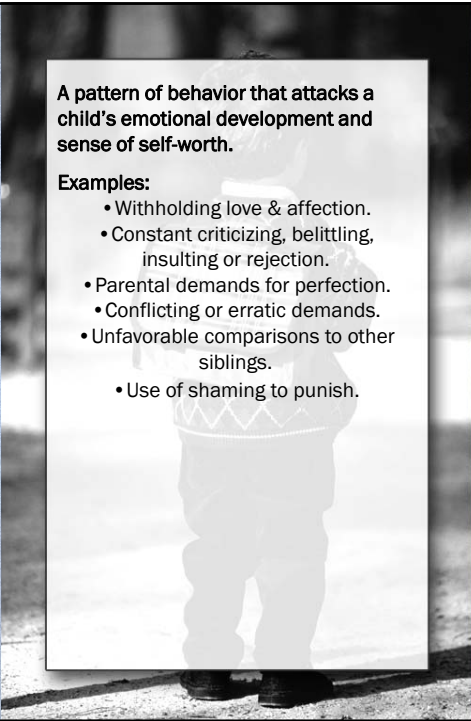
**Results In:**

- Broken Bones
- Bruises
- Welts
- Scars
- Internal Injuries

**Forms of Abuse**  
Acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental or emotional health of a child.

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Verbal







**A pattern of behavior that attacks a child's emotional development and sense of self-worth.**

**Examples:**

- Withholding love & affection.
- Constant criticizing, belittling, insulting or rejection.
- Parental demands for perfection.
- Conflicting or erratic demands.
- Unfavorable comparisons to other siblings.
- Use of shaming to punish.

**Forms of Abuse**  
Acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental or emotional health of a child.

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Verbal



**Denotes the exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of a perpetrator. Sexual abuse may range from exposure and fondling to intercourse.**

**Examples:**


- Incest
- Child Prostitution
- Child Pornography


**Physical:**  
Fondling, inappropriate touching, rape or attempted rape, making child pornography.

**Non-Physical:**  
Indecent exposure, talk about sex designed to shock or interest the child, allowing child to watch or hear sexual acts or materials

**Forms of Abuse**  
Acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental or emotional health of a child.

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Verbal





**The failure of a caretaker to provide the child with the basic necessities of life.**

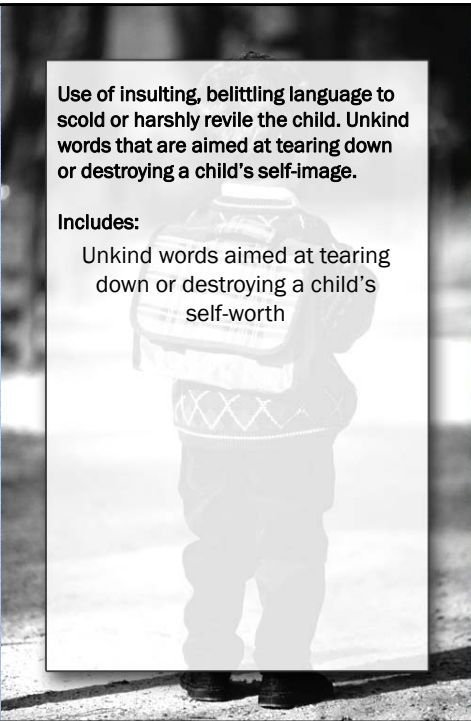

**Physical Neglect is the lack of:**  
Food  
Clothing  
Shelter  
Medical care  
Education

**Emotional Neglect is failure to provide:**  
Love  
Support  
Guidance  
(Poverty exclusion)

**As of 2005 includes:**  
A newborn identified by a health care provider as affected by the illegal use of a controlled dangerous substance or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal illegal drug exposure caused by the parent. The report must be within 30 days of the newborn's birth by a health care provider who was involved in the delivery or care of the newborn.

**Forms of Abuse**  
Acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental or emotional health of a child.

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Verbal





**Use of insulting, belittling language to scold or harshly revile the child. Unkind words that are aimed at tearing down or destroying a child's self-image.**

**Includes:**  
Unkind words aimed at tearing down or destroying a child's self-worth

**Forms of Abuse**  
Acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental or emotional health of a child.

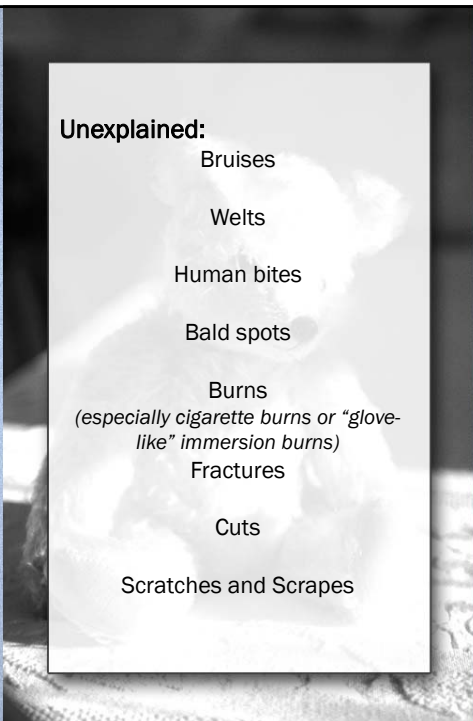

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Verbal





**Possible Indicators of Abuse  
Signs & Symptoms**

- Physical Abuse Indicators
- Physical Neglect Indicators
- Sexual Abuse Indicators
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse Indicators
- Behavioral Indicators of Abuse
- Risk Factors




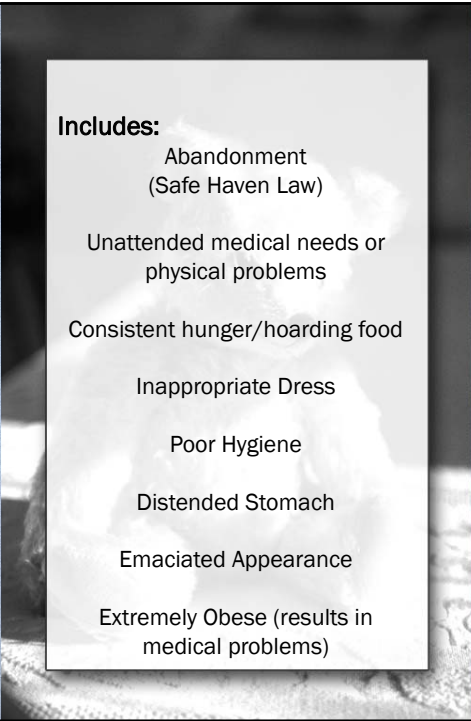
**Unexplained:**

- Bruises
- Welts
- Human bites
- Bald spots
- Burns  
*(especially cigarette burns or "glove-like" immersion burns)*
- Fractures
- Cuts
- Scratches and Scrapes

**Possible Indicators of Abuse  
Signs & Symptoms**

- Physical Abuse Indicators
- Physical Neglect Indicators
- Sexual Abuse Indicators
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse Indicators
- Behavioral Indicators of Abuse
- Risk Factors







**Includes:**

- Abandonment (Safe Haven Law)
- Unattended medical needs or physical problems
- Consistent hunger/hoarding food
- Inappropriate Dress
- Poor Hygiene
- Distended Stomach
- Emaciated Appearance
- Extremely Obese (results in medical problems)

**Possible Indicators of Abuse**  
Signs & Symptoms

- Physical Abuse Indicators
- Physical Neglect Indicators
- Sexual Abuse Indicators
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse Indicators
- Behavioral Indicators of Abuse
- Risk Factors




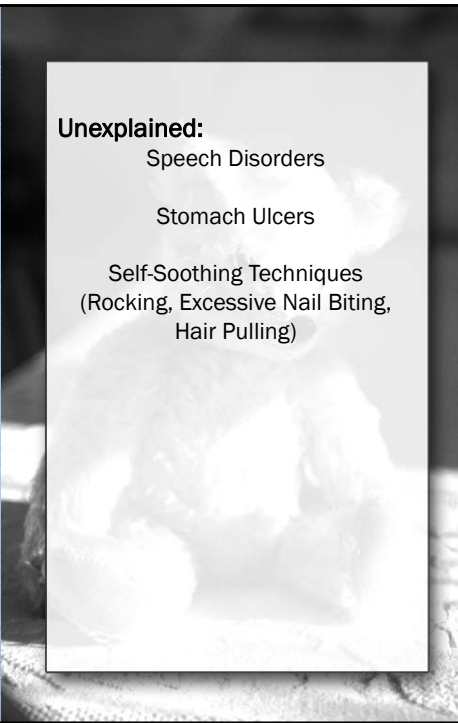
**Unexplained:**

- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing.
- Pain or itching in genital area.
- Difficulty walking or sitting.
- Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia.
- Venereal disease
- Frequent urinary or yeast infections.

**Possible Indicators of Abuse**  
Signs & Symptoms

- Physical Abuse Indicators
- Physical Neglect Indicators
- Sexual Abuse Indicators
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse Indicators
- Behavioral Indicators of Abuse
- Risk Factors







**Unexplained:**  
Speech Disorders  
Stomach Ulcers  
Self-Soothing Techniques  
(Rocking, Excessive Nail Biting,  
Hair Pulling)

**Possible Indicators of Abuse**  
Signs & Symptoms


- Physical Abuse Indicators
- Physical Neglect Indicators
- Sexual Abuse Indicators
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse Indicators
- Behavioral Indicators of Abuse
- Risk Factors

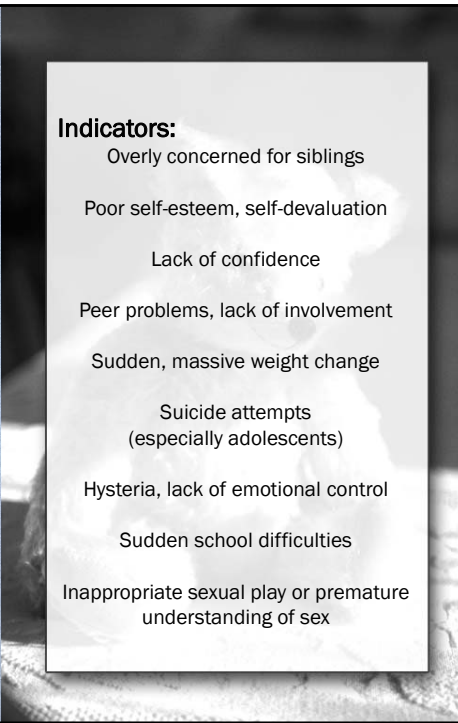


**Indicators:**  
Self-destructive  
Withdrawn and aggressive-behavioral extremes  
Uncomfortable with physical contact  
(e.g. flinches at raised hands)  
Complains of soreness or moves uncomfortably  
Afraid to go to places abuse occurs  
(school, daycare, home)  
Withdrawal, chronic depression  
Excessive seductiveness  
Role reversal

**Possible Indicators of Abuse**  
Signs & Symptoms

- Physical Abuse Indicators
- Physical Neglect Indicators
- Sexual Abuse Indicators
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse Indicators
- Behavioral Indicators of Abuse
- Risk Factors



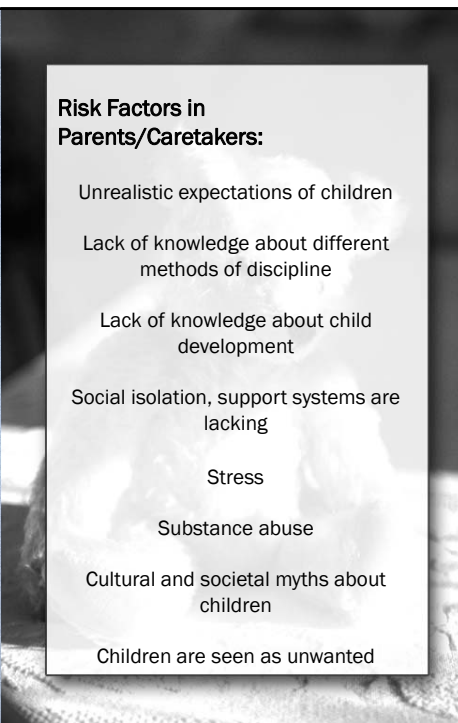



**Indicators:**

- Overly concerned for siblings
- Poor self-esteem, self-devaluation
- Lack of confidence
- Peer problems, lack of involvement
- Sudden, massive weight change
- Suicide attempts (especially adolescents)
- Hysteria, lack of emotional control
- Sudden school difficulties
- Inappropriate sexual play or premature understanding of sex

**Possible Indicators of Abuse**  
Signs & Symptoms

- Physical Abuse Indicators
- Physical Neglect Indicators
- Sexual Abuse Indicators
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse Indicators
- Behavioral Indicators of abuse...
- Risk Factors




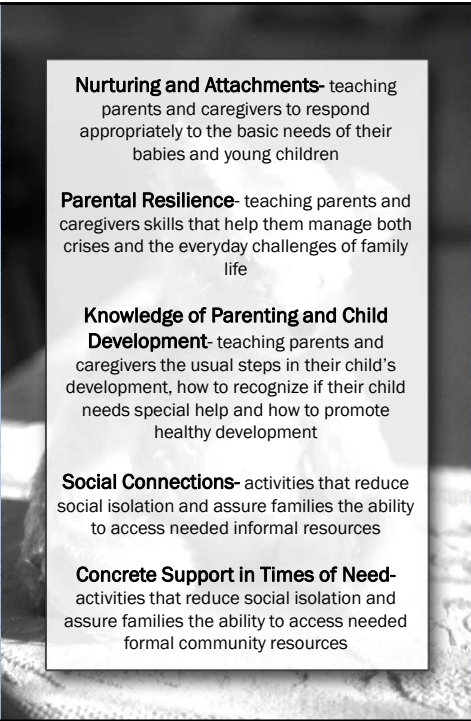
**Risk Factors in Parents/Caretakers:**

- Unrealistic expectations of children
- Lack of knowledge about different methods of discipline
- Lack of knowledge about child development
- Social isolation, support systems are lacking
- Stress
- Substance abuse
- Cultural and societal myths about children
- Children are seen as unwanted

**Possible Indicators of Abuse**  
Signs & Symptoms

- Physical Abuse Indicators
- Physical Neglect Indicators
- Sexual Abuse Indicators
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse Indicators
- Behavioral Indicators of Abuse
- Risk Factors





**Nurturing and Attachments-** teaching parents and caregivers to respond appropriately to the basic needs of their babies and young children

**Parental Resilience-** teaching parents and caregivers skills that help them manage both crises and the everyday challenges of family life


**Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development-** teaching parents and caregivers the usual steps in their child's development, how to recognize if their child needs special help and how to promote healthy development

**Social Connections-** activities that reduce social isolation and assure families the ability to access needed informal resources

**Concrete Support in Times of Need-** activities that reduce social isolation and assure families the ability to access needed formal community resources

**Protective Factors**  
Office of Management and Budget:  
Community Based Child Abuse  
Prevention Program Guidelines

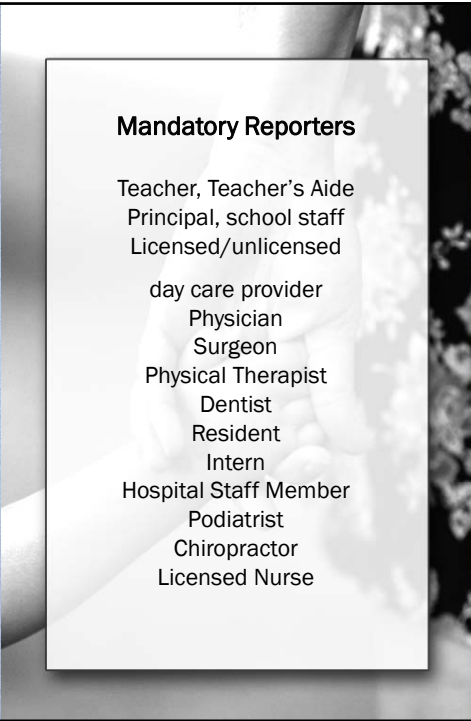
- What can you do to increase these protective factors for families that you work with?
- It is easier than you think!



**What It Means to be a MR**  
Mandatory Reporting: What to Know

- Who Are Mandatory Reporters
- Immunity from Legal Liability
- “Good Faith”



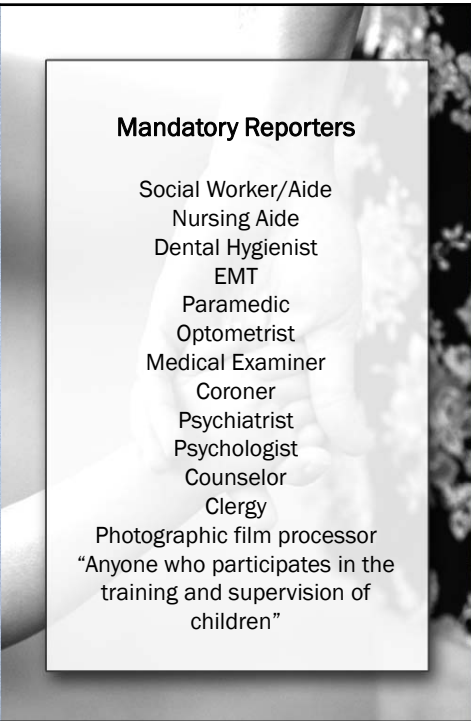



**Mandatory Reporters**

Teacher, Teacher's Aide  
Principal, school staff  
Licensed/unlicensed  
day care provider  
Physician  
Surgeon  
Physical Therapist  
Dentist  
Resident  
Intern  
Hospital Staff Member  
Podiatrist  
Chiropractor  
Licensed Nurse

**What It Means to be a MR**  
Mandatory Reporting: What to Know

- Who Are Mandatory Reporters
  - Article 603 in the Louisiana Children's Code
- Immunity from Legal Liability
- "Good Faith"




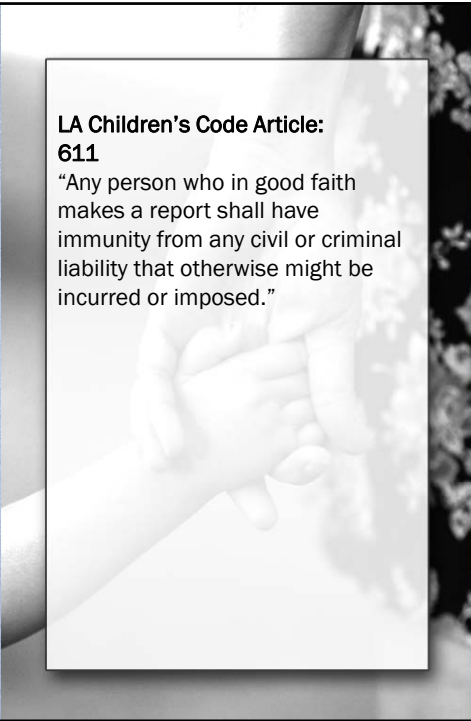
**Mandatory Reporters**

Social Worker/Aide  
Nursing Aide  
Dental Hygienist  
EMT  
Paramedic  
Optometrist  
Medical Examiner  
Coroner  
Psychiatrist  
Psychologist  
Counselor  
Clergy  
Photographic film processor  
"Anyone who participates in the training and supervision of children"

**What It Means to be a MR**  
Mandatory Reporting: What to Know

- Who Are Mandatory Reporters  
continued...
- Immunity from Legal Liability
- "Good Faith"

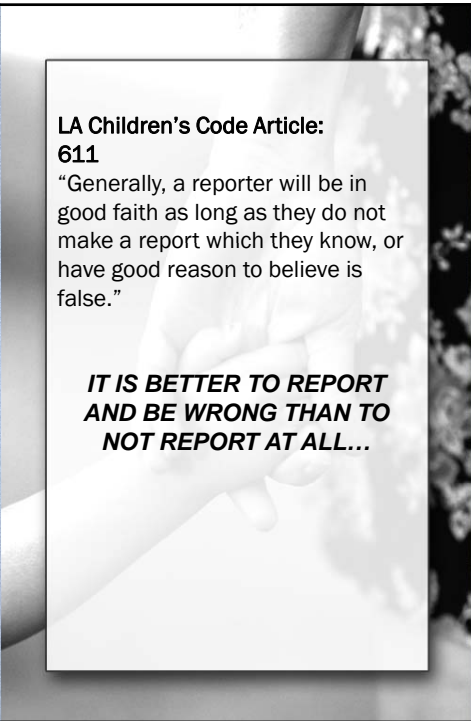





**LA Children's Code Article:  
611**  
"Any person who in good faith makes a report shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed."

**What It Means to be a MR**  
Mandatory Reporting: What to Know

- Who Are Mandatory Reporters
- Immunity from Legal Liability
- "Good Faith"





**LA Children's Code Article:  
611**  
"Generally, a reporter will be in good faith as long as they do not make a report which they know, or have good reason to believe is false."

***IT IS BETTER TO REPORT  
AND BE WRONG THAN TO  
NOT REPORT AT ALL...***

**What It Means to be a MR**  
Mandatory Reporting: What to Know

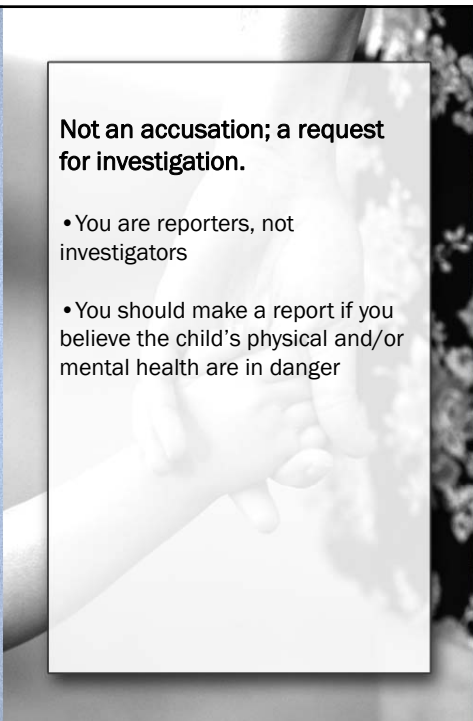
- Who Are Mandatory Reporters
- Immunity from Legal Liability
- "Good Faith"





**Report, Report, Report**  
The What and the How of it All

- What is a report
- How do I make a report?
  - Gather Information
  - Who To Call
  - What to Expect
  - Managing Emotional Reactions
- What happens if I don't report?




**Not an accusation; a request for investigation.**

- You are reporters, not investigators
- You should make a report if you believe the child's physical and/or mental health are in danger

**Report, Report, Report**  
The What and the How of it All

- What is a report
- How do I make a report?
  - Gather Information
  - Who To Call
  - What to Expect
  - Managing Emotional Reactions
- What happens if I don't report?




**The Four Steps:**

**1. Gather Information**

- Name, address, sex, race of child
- Factors leading up to report; why you suspect, etc. Be Specific!
- Use the words the child used
- Parent/guardian's name, address, phone #
- Names/ages of all other children in home if known
- Present location of child – RIGHT NOW
- If known – suspected perpetrators name/address
- Any explanations child or caretaker gave
- Any other helpful/relevant information

**Report, Report, Report**  
The What and the How of it All

- What is a report
- How do I make a report?
  - Gather Information
  - Who To Call
  - What to Expect
  - Managing Emotional Reactions
- What happens if I don't report?




**The Four Steps:**

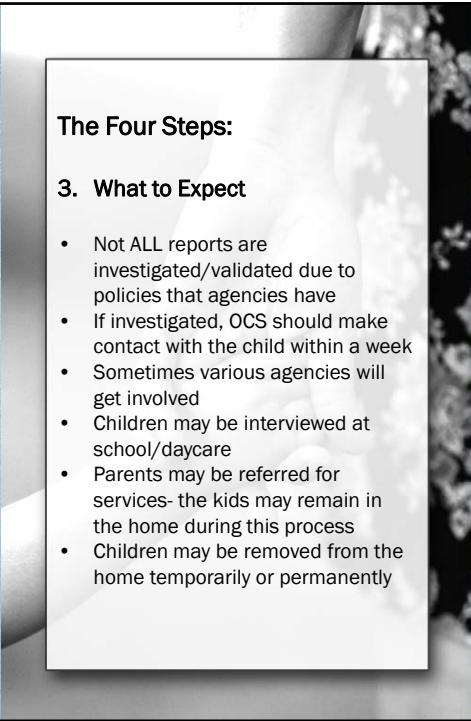
**2. Who To Call**

- In-home: OCS
- Out of home: Law Enforcement
- Oral report MUST be followed up with written report within 5 days
- Agency will determine what is valid/invalid
- Not ALL cases are investigated/validated; OCS MUST follow up on every report
- Be clear and unemotional
- Just tell the facts
- Be courteous/professional
- Most reporters are NOT made aware of the outcome

**Report, Report, Report**  
The What and the How of it All

- What is a report
- How do I make a report?
  - Gather Information
  - Who To Call
  - What to Expect
  - Managing Emotional Reactions
- What happens if I don't report?





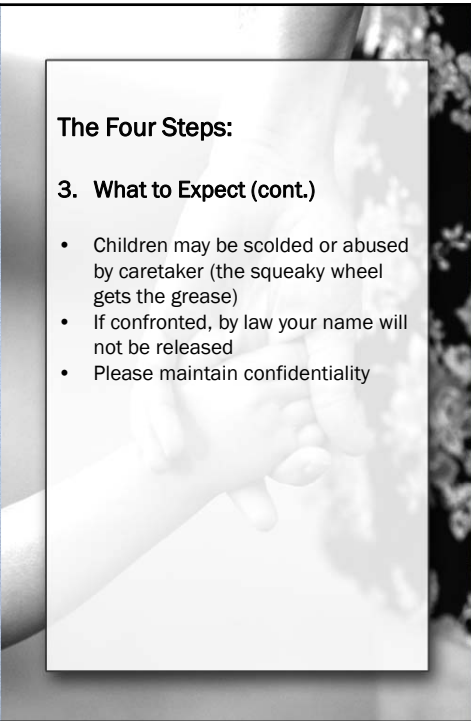

**The Four Steps:**

**3. What to Expect**

- Not ALL reports are investigated/validated due to policies that agencies have
- If investigated, OCS should make contact with the child within a week
- Sometimes various agencies will get involved
- Children may be interviewed at school/daycare
- Parents may be referred for services- the kids may remain in the home during this process
- Children may be removed from the home temporarily or permanently

**Report, Report, Report**  
The What and the How of it All

- What is a report
- How do I make a report?
  - Gather Information
  - Who To Call
  - What to Expect
  - Managing Emotional Reactions
- What happens if I don't report?




**The Four Steps:**

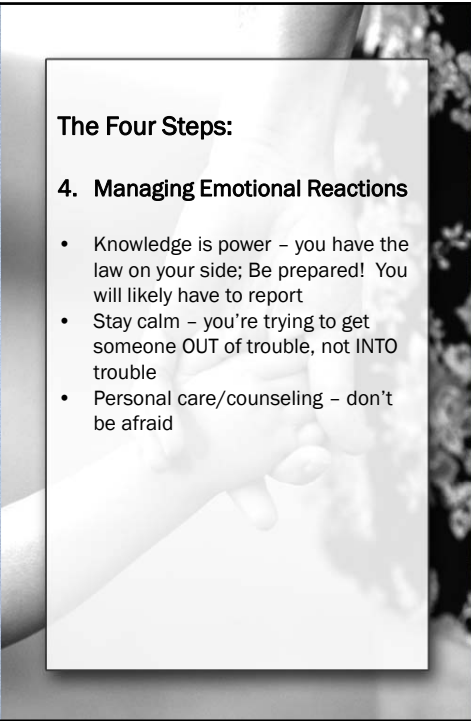
**3. What to Expect (cont.)**

- Children may be scolded or abused by caretaker (the squeaky wheel gets the grease)
- If confronted, by law your name will not be released
- Please maintain confidentiality

**Report, Report, Report**  
The What and the How of it All

- What is a report
- How do I make a report?
  - Gather Information
  - Who To Call
  - What to Expect
  - Managing Emotional Reactions
- What happens if I don't report?





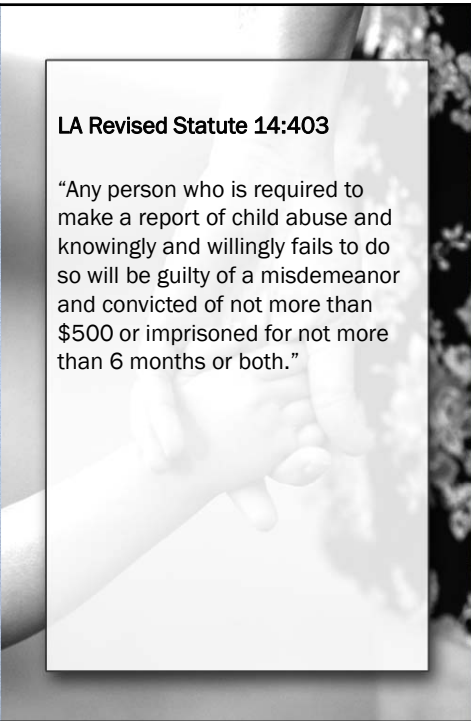

**The Four Steps:**

**4. Managing Emotional Reactions**

- Knowledge is power – you have the law on your side; Be prepared! You will likely have to report
- Stay calm – you’re trying to get someone OUT of trouble, not INTO trouble
- Personal care/counseling – don’t be afraid

**Report, Report, Report**  
The What and the How of it All

- What is a report
- How do I make a report?
  - Gather Information
  - Who To Call
  - What to Expect
  - Managing Emotional Reactions
- What happens if I don’t report?




**LA Revised Statute 14:403**

“Any person who is required to make a report of child abuse and knowingly and willingly fails to do so will be guilty of a misdemeanor and convicted of not more than \$500 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both.”

**Report, Report, Report**  
The What and the How of it All

- What is a report
- How do I make a report?
  - Gather Information
  - Who To Call
  - What to Expect
  - Managing Emotional Reactions
- What happens if I don’t report?



Valuing Children    Strengthening Families    Engaging Communities



Need more information?



[www.pcal.org](http://www.pcal.org)

[theresa@pcal.org](mailto:theresa@pcal.org)



**Prevent Child Abuse**  
Louisiana

[www.pcal.org](http://www.pcal.org)