

42. Mandated reporters cannot be dismissed, disciplined or harassed for making a report of suspected child abuse.
43. **A free online site for mandated reporter training is:** www.sonoma.edu/cihs/mr/
44. Investigations by CPS and law enforcement into alleged child abuse are conducted separately.
45. The California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law (Penal Code 11164-11174.3) can be accessed on the internet at www.leginfo.ca.gov
46. Once investigated, reports of suspected child abuse are categorized as substantiated, unfounded or inconclusive (insufficient evidence).
47. **Substantiated and inconclusive reports are filed in the California Department of Justice Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) database. Submitting agencies are responsible for the accuracy of the reports.**
48. Unfounded reports are purged from the CACI database.
49. Children living in domestic violence situations are at risk of being physically abused themselves.
50. **Child Help USA Hotline offers 24-hour crisis telephone assistance for individuals under stress. Telephone counseling is available in 140 languages.
800-422-4453**



In the event there are questions about a specific case, the advice of the local child protection agency or competent legal counsel should be sought.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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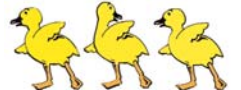


Office of Child Abuse Prevention
 Pub 411 (4/06)

50 FACTS

YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHILD ABUSE

1. **Child abuse is a crime.**
2. One person can make a difference for a child.
3. No child asks to be abused or neglected.
4. Child abuse and neglect affect children of all ages, races, and incomes.
5. Instances of suspected child abuse should be reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) or police.
6. **Parents abusing drugs or alcohol are at higher risk of abusing or neglecting their children.**
7. Domestic violence greatly impacts children in the home. In some counties it is prosecuted as emotional abuse.
8. Children under two years of age are at greatest risk of abuse.
9. **Circumstances that place parents under substantial stress (e.g., divorce) can increase the risk of child abuse.**
10. Neglected or sexually abused children may not show any physical signs of harm.
11. It is not a weakness to ask for help when overwhelmed or stressed by parenting. Getting help when you need it is an essential part of good parenting.



12. The number one reason a baby is shaken is inconsolable crying.

13. Child abuse is the most common cause of brain injury in children under one year of age.

14. Most parents don't hurt their children intentionally. Many were abused and neglected themselves.

15. Children with disabilities are three to seven times more likely to suffer from maltreatment than children without disabilities.



16. Most experts believe that actual incidents of abuse are more numerous than statistics indicate.

17. Reporting possible child abuse does not automatically mean the child will be removed from the home. Removing a child is an action taken only when a child cannot remain at home safely.

18. California has strict rules about the removal of children from their families.

19. Once a Child Protective Services investigation has begun, decisions are based on each child's situation.

20. When a CPS report is made, it is assessed by the level of risk. The greater the risk, the quicker the response.

21. Not all CPS reports are high risk. In some cases, referrals may be made to community agencies to help a family or caregiver.

22. It is against the law to knowingly make a false report of child abuse.

23. The CPS worker investigating suspected child abuse has the right to interview the child during school hours.

24. Shaken baby syndrome is a form of child abuse. About 60% of children who survive will become children with severe disabilities.

25. Parents in crisis can call Parent Outreach at 800-901-4565, a free 24-hour hotline.
www.parentoutreach.org



26. Investigations in the home include assessing the allegations and level of risk to the child.

27. Parents Anonymous offers self-help groups for potentially abusive or abusive parents at www.parentsanonymous.org

28. Parents who don't protect their child from abuse by another parent or partner in the home are silent partners to abuse. They can be criminally liable.

29. Parent discussion groups provide a forum for parents to discuss child-rearing problems, gain support, and minimize isolation. www.parenthood.com

30. Child Abuse Prevention Councils or Family Resource Centers often have resources available locally.
www.capcsac.org/crisisnumbers/councils.html
www.familyresourcecenters.net
www.cattacenter.org

31. Programs offering help can positively impact a family at risk. Early assistance is important for preventing abuse.

32. Parent education classes are designed to help parents understand their child's development and learn skills for safe discipline. www.positiveparenting.com/

33. Supporting a stressed-out parent (at risk of abusing) helps both the parent and the child.

34. Only CPS or law enforcement can conduct an investigation into suspected abuse.

35. It is not up to the person reporting an instance of suspected abuse to investigate. Only a CPS agency or county designee can conduct an investigation.

36. People who are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect are mandated reporters.

37. In California, there are numerous types of mandated reporters. Teachers, doctors, child care workers, and humane control officers are a few.

38. Mandated reporters may not report anonymously.

39. Mandated reporters must make a report immediately (or as soon as practically possible) by phone, followed by a written report within 36 hours. (Effective 1/1/06 the written report can be sent, faxed, or electronically transmitted.)

40. The majority of child abuse cases do not go to trial.

41. Individuals not legally mandated to report may make anonymous reports.