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Foster Parents Named Mandated Reporters

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Below you will find the language of the new CT law as well as brief descriptions of child abuse and neglect requiring all mandated reporters to call into the DCF Hotline at 1-800-842-2288. Please note that as a mandated reporter you can still choose to have your contact information remain confidential.

Public Act 09-185 - Changes effective July 1, 2009 - mandates that all licensed foster and pre-adoptive parents licensed in the State of CT report suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect. According to the DCF website:

Mandated reporters must report orally to the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Hotline or a law enforcement agency within 12 hours of suspecting that a child has been abused or neglected and must submit a written report (DCF-136 form) to DCF within 48 hours of making the oral report. DCF is required to tape record all reports to the Hotline.

The text of the changes to the law are below.

Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 17a-101 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

(b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: Any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or not so licensed, any registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, medical examiner, dentist, dental hygienist, psychologist, coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics, school teacher, school principal, school guidance counselor, school paraprofessional, school coach, social worker, police officer, juvenile or adult probation officer, juvenile or adult parole officer, member of the clergy, pharmacist, physical therapist, optometrist, chiropractor, podiatrist, mental health professional or physician assistant, any person who is a licensed or certified emergency medical services provider, any person who is a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor, any person who is a licensed marital and family therapist, any person who is a sexual assault counselor or a battered women's counselor as defined in section 52-146k, any person who is a licensed professional counselor, any person who is a licensed foster parent, any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, child day care center, group day care home or family day care home licensed by the state, any employee of the Department of Children and Families, any employee of the Department of Public Health who is responsible for the licensing of child day care centers, group day care homes, family day care homes or youth camps, the Child Advocate and any employee of the Office of Child Advocate.

More complete information is available by clicking on the following link.

Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect

Many people fear that reporting child abuse or neglect will destroy a family. The truth, however, is that getting help can protect children from further harm and assist the family in facing and overcoming its problems. We can all help end child abuse by becoming aware of the signs and reporting suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. Some signs of child maltreatment include:

1. Signs of Abuse

Physical

- Bruises, welts, or swelling
- Sprains or fractures
- Burns
- Lacerations or abrasions

Sexual

- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Torn, stained, or bloody clothing
- Pain or itching in the genital area; bruises or bleeding in the external genital area
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy

2. Signs of Neglect

Physical

- Lack of adequate supervision, nutrition, or shelter
- Poor hygiene
- Inappropriate dress

Educational

- Infrequent attendance in school

Medical

- Unattended medical or dental needs

3. Emotional neglect or abuse

- Speech disorders
- Delayed physical development
- Substance abuse

4. Behavioral signs of abuse or neglect

- Uncomfortable with physical contact
- Low self-esteem
- Behavior extremes, such as appearing overly compliant and passive or very demanding and aggressive
- Frequently at home with no caretaker
- Lags in physical, emotional, or intellectual development.

Nationally, of the children for whom the allegations of maltreatment were proven, 56% were neglected, 25% were physically abused, 13% were sexually abused, 6% were emotionally abused, and 13% were

classified as suffering from some other form of abuse. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Maltreatment 1997.)

*Taken from the NYC Administration for Child Welfare Website:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/child_safety/child_abuse_signs.shtml

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