



# MANDATED REPORTERS



Pursuant to Section [17a-101](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes, certain health [professionals](#) regulated by the Department of Public Health are mandated to report suspected [child abuse or neglect](#) to the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Child Abuse and Neglect [Careline](#) or a law enforcement agency.



## REASONABLE CAUSE TO SUSPECT



- ◆ Observed
- ◆ Allegations
- ◆ Facts or statements by a child, victim, or third party

**CERTAINTY OR PROBABLE CAUSE IS NOT REQUIRED**



## **ABUSE & NEGLECT POLICY**

Our Griswold Youth Camp Staff have a responsibility to prevent child abuse and neglect of any campers involved in our youth camp.

Definition of Child Abuse includes:

- Any non-accidental physical or mental injury (i.e. shaking, beating, burning)
- Any form of sexual abuse (i.e. sexual exploitation)
- Neglect of a child (i.e. failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, education, mental care, proper supervision)
- Emotional abuse (i.e. excessive belittling, berating, or teasing which impairs the child's psychological growth)
- At risk behavior (i.e. placing a child in a situation which might endanger him by abuse or neglect).

Child Abuse is defined as:

- A child who has had
- Non-accidental physical injuries inflicted upon him/her.
- Injuries which are at variance with the history given of them
- It is in a condition, which is the result of maltreatment, such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual exploitation, and deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment.

Child neglect is defined as:

- A child who has been:
- Abandoned
- Denied proper care and attention physically, educationally, emotionally or morally.
- Allowed to live under circumstances, conditions or associations injurious to his well-being (CT statutes 46b-120)

Youth camp staff responsibilities:

As childcare providers we are mandated by law to report **any suspicion** that a child is being abused, neglected or at risk.

Specifics on reporting a suspected case of abuse or neglect.

**Call the Department of Children and Families (open 24 hours a day)**

**CALL: 1-800-842-2288.**

**The reporter's name is needed but may be kept confidential.**

Information needed:

- ✓ Name of child/Date of birth
- ✓ Address of child
- ✓ Phone number of child.
- ✓ Name of parents or guardians
- ✓ Address of parents or guardians
- ✓ Phone number of parents or guardians
- ✓ Relevant information such as: physical or behavioral indicators, nature and extent of injury, maltreatment or neglect
- ✓ Exact description of what the reporter has observed
- ✓ Time and date of incident
- ✓ Information about previous injuries, if any
- ✓ Circumstances under which reporter learned of abuse
- ✓ Name of any person suspected of causing injury
- ✓ Any information reporter believes would be helpful
- ✓ Any action taken to help or treat the child
- ✓ Seek medical attention for the child – if needed
- ✓ Mandated reporters must report orally to DCF or a law enforcement agency within 12 hours of suspecting that a child has been abused or neglected. Within 48 hours of making the report, the mandated reporter must submit a written report (DCF – 136) to DCF.
- ✓ Youth camp staff are protected by law from discrimination or retaliation for reporting suspected abuse or neglect (CT General Statutes, Section 17a-101e).
- ✓ All phone calls to DCF shall be documented and kept on file at the Center. A copy of all statements from staff and the DCF-136 shall also be kept on file.
- ✓ The management of this program supports a zero tolerance for abuse and neglect and will implement immediate action should there be an allegation that a staff member abused or neglected a child.
- ✓ The administration will protect the child, including immediate notification of a parent or guardian, once there is an allegation of abuse or neglect of a child in our program.
- ✓ Any youth camp staff member accused of abuse or neglect may be immediately removed from his or her position until DCF's investigation is completed. Based on whether the allegations were substantiated or not, the

employee would either be dismissed from his/her position or allowed to return to work.

- ✓ Staff Training:
  - Youth camp staff will be required to attend training focusing on the steps for reporting suspected abuse and neglect and the role of a mandated reporter. All new youth camp staff will be trained in these procedures prior to their start in the youth camp.
  
- ✓ Provisions for informing families of abuse and neglect policy:
  - A copy of this policy will be included in our parent information packet, and each family will be given a copy upon enrollment. A copy of this policy will also be posted on the parent board.
  - When an accusation of abuse or neglect by a youth camp staff member is made, the Director must at once inform the parents or guardians that a report has been made to DCF. Health care officials may need to talk to a camper's parents to assess the cause of the camper's injuries and offer support and guidance.