

**Facing the Facts:
A Parent's Guide to the Understanding of *Child Abuse***

Definition of Child Abuse

As used in this article, "child abuse" means a physical injury which is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person. "Child abuse" also means the sexual abuse of a child or any act or omission proscribed by Section 273a (willful cruelty of unjustifiable punishment of a child) or 273d (unlawful corporal punishment or injury.) "Child abuse" also means the neglect of a child or abuse in out-of-home care, as defined in this article. "Child abuse" does not mean a mutual affray between minors. Penal Code Section 11165.6

Definition of Sexual Abuse

As used in this article "sexual abuse" means sexual assault or sexual exploitation as defined in the following:
(a) "sexual assault" means conduct in violation of one or more of the following sections: Section 261 (rape), 264.1 (rape in concert), 285 (incest), 286 (sodomy), subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 288 (lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14 years of age), 288a (oral copulation), 289 (penetration of a genital or anal opening by a foreign object), or 647a (child molestation.)
Penal Code Section 11165.1

Definition of Neglect

As used in this article, "neglect" means the negligent treatment or the maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare. The term includes both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person Penal Code Section 11165.2

Contacts and Services

For your information, the following chart shows what agencies may assist you in the specific areas listed below:

	Police or Sheriff	County Dept. of Children's Social Svc.	State or Local division of Community Care Licensing
If you believe a child is being (or has been) abused by an individual (relative, friend....)	✓	✓	
If you believe a child has been assaulted by a stranger...	✓		
If you believe a child is being (or has been) abused in a licensed day care setting (child care center, school, recreational facility, family day care home....)	✓		✓
If you have any questions or complaints concerning the licensing organization, staffing, or programs of a licensed child care setting...		✓	

Mandated Reporters

While everyone should report suspected child abuse and neglect, the California Penal Code provides that certain professionals and lay persons must report suspected abuse to the proper authorities. These include:

- Any child care custodian (teacher, licensed day care workers, foster parents, social workers)
- Medical Practitioners (physicians, dentists, psychologists, nurses)
- Non-medical Practitioners (public health employees, counselors, religious practitioners who treat children)
- Employees of a child protective agency (sheriff, probation officers, county welfare department employees)

If abuse is suspected a phone report to Police or CPS must be made immediately. Failure to submit the written report of suspected abuse by a mandated reporter (listed above) within 36 hours is a misdemeanor punishable by 6 months in jail and/or a \$1000 fine.

Child Abuse Prevention Curriculum

With your permission, your child will participate in a developmental safety program.

Remember, you have the primary responsibility for your child's well-being. With a little time, effort and understanding you may prevent your child from being abused or assist your child when abuse has occurred.

Child Abuse Prevention Information Receipt

This will acknowledge that I/we, the parents of _____ have received a copy of
Child's Name

"Facing the Facts: A Parent's Guide to the Understanding of Child Abuse" from the _____
Name of Facility

By typing my full name, I confirm that the above information is true and correct _____ Date _____