

Miscellaneous Issues:

Quality of Life / Parenting Issues – An allegation of lack of care that does not seriously endanger the physical health of the child is not appropriate for a CPS initial assessment. Examples include: head lice, scabies, parent(s) failing or refusing to provide their child with psychotropic medications such as Ritalin, etc.

Immunization Issues – CPS does not assess complaints that allege parents are failing or refusing to obtain immunizations for their children. Referrals of this nature should be made to the local Health Department.

Homelessness Issues – Homelessness in and of itself does not constitute a CPS referral if the child's basic needs are being met and there is no risk of physical harm in the present living arrangements (i.e. homeless shelter, friend's home, relative's home).

School Truants – Routine complaints on school truants are not appropriate for CPS. Truancy is not in itself synonymous with child abuse or neglect.

Runaways – Routine complaints of runaways are not appropriate for CPS. Runaways can be reported by the parent/guardian to local law enforcement.

Corporal Punishment – Absent an injury, physical discipline is not part of the child abuse laws.

Placement Outside Parent / Relative Home: A child may reside outside a parent's or relative's home if the parent or guardian has made arrangements for the child's placement and is ensuring the child's basic needs are being met by the current caregiver even if they are not related to the child.

Training: The Racine County Human Services Department will provide training to mandated reporters regarding their requirements to report suspected child abuse and / or neglect. To request training, contact the Youth & Family Division Manager at 262-638-6511.

To report child abuse / neglect:

262-638-7720

**Racine County Human Services Department
1717 Taylor Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53403**

Mandated Reporter's Resource Guide

Wisconsin State Statute 48.981(2) requires the reporting of child abuse and neglect by certain persons, referred to as mandated reporters. Mandated reporters who have reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen by the person in the course of professional duties has been abused or neglected or who has reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect shall immediately inform the Human Services Department.



List of Mandated Reporters:

Mandated reporters are an essential part of the child protection system since they have an enhanced capacity, through their expertise and direct contact with children and families, to identify suspected child abuse and neglect. The list of mandated reporters is as follows:

A physician, coroner, medical examiner, nurse, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, acupuncturist, medical or health professional, social worker, marriage & family therapist, professional counselor, public assistance worker, financial & employment planner, school teacher, school administrator, school counselor, mediator, child care worker, child care provider, alcohol or other drug abuse counselor, treatment staff employed by or working under contract with a county department or a residential care center for children, physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, occupational therapist, dietitian, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, emergency medical technician, first responder, & police or law enforcement officer.

Responsibility of Mandated Reporters:

Mandated reporters are always required to report suspected child abuse and neglect to the Human Services Department. The report must be made directly to the Human Services Department. There are civil and criminal penalties for mandated reporters failing to make a report. Likewise, there is a civil and criminal immunity for someone making a report in good faith.

Making the Report:

**To report child abuse and neglect,
Contact:**



Racine County Human Services Department

262-638-7720



The information in a report to the Human Services Department needs to be provided by the individual who actually has observed the injuries or had contact with the child regarding the report. It is helpful, but not necessary, for the CPS Access Worker to have the information listed below:

- Primary caregiver’s name and address.
- Names & identifying information for all household members, including the alleged victim & perpetrator.
- Birth date & race of all members of the household.
- Whether the alleged perpetrator lives with the child.
- The address where the alleged incident happened.
- Statements of the child’s disclosure and context of the disclosure. For example, was the child asked about the injury or did the child volunteer the information?
- History of the child’s behavior.
- Why child abuse and/or neglect is suspected.

Definitions of Child Abuse / Neglect:

Abuse: any of the following:

- 1) Physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means.
- 2) Serious physical harm inflicted on an unborn child, including the risk of serious physical harm to the child when born, caused by the habitual lack of self-control of the expectant mother of the unborn child in the use of alcohol beverages, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, exhibited to a severe degree.
- 3) Sexual intercourse, sexual contact, sexual exploitation, causing a child to view or listen to sexual activity, permitting, allowing, or encouraging prostitution, or exposing genitals or pubic area to a child.
- 4) Manufacturing methamphetamine in the presence of a child, on the premises of a child’s home, or in a motor vehicle located on the premises of a child’s home.
- 5) Emotional damage for which the child’s parent, guardian or legal custodian has neglected, refused or been unable for reasons other than poverty to obtain the necessary treatment or to take steps to ameliorate the symptoms.

Neglect: A child whose parent, guardian or legal custodian neglects, refuses or is unable for reasons other than poverty to provide necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care or shelter so as to seriously endanger the physical health of the child.

Indicators of Child Abuse / Neglect: Determining when to report situations of suspected child abuse / neglect can be difficult. When in doubt, contact the Human Services Department for consultation. Below are some commonly accepted physical indicators associated with various forms of child abuse and neglect. Note: the physical indicators below, in themselves, are not the only indicators of child abuse and neglect and, if present, do not always mean a child is being abused or neglected.

	Physical Indicators
Physical Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bruises more numerous than expected from explanation of incident. * Unexpected bruises, welts, or loop marks in various stages of healing * Adult / human bite marks * Bald spots or missing clumps of hair. * Unexplained fractures, skin lacerations, punctures, or abrasions. * Swollen lips and / or chipped teeth * Linear / parallel marks on cheeks and / or temple area * Crescent shaped bruising caused by pinching. * Puncture wounds that resemble distinctive objects. * Bruising behind the ears.
Physical Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Distended stomach, emaciated. * Unattended medical needs. * Lack of supervision. * Consistent signs of hunger, inappropriate dress, poor hygiene. * Sudden or unexplained weight change.
Sexual Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pain or itching in genital area. * Bruises or bleeding in genital area. * Sexually transmitted disease. * Frequent urinary or yeast infections. * Sudden or unexplained weight change. * Pregnancy

Confidentiality: Strict state and federal laws govern CPS investigations. The identity of the reporting person is confidential under the law. The alleged perpetrator may infer from the information in the report who made the complaint; however, CPS will not disclose the identity of a reporting person.