



The Licensing Link

From Your Licensing Workers

IF YOU ARE A CHILD CARE PROVIDER, THEN YOU ARE A MANDATED REPORTER

The purpose of this article is to explain what it means to be a mandated reporter. A goal is also to relieve some of the fear and apprehension that comes with the possibility of making a report of child maltreatment (suspected or known) to the authorities. It is understood that the thought of filing such a report against a family or person with whom you have a relationship, can be quite anxiety provoking, but for the health and safety of children, that anxiety must be overcome.

Anyone may report child maltreatment on a voluntary basis. You, as child care providers who work with children or families, are legally required (mandated) to report if you know or have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected, or if a child has been abused or neglected within the preceding three years. Mandated reporters come from a long list of professionals and their delegates. Those fields of work include: health care professionals, social services, child care, mental health professionals, education, law enforcement, Guardians ad Litem, clergy, and probation and correctional services.

Minnesota Laws (see Statutes, section 626.556), provides you with a very large responsibility. *If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, you cannot shift the responsibility of reporting to a supervisor, or to someone else in the office, school, clinic, or licensed facility. You alone are required to make the report to the responsible agency.* You also should know that any report made in good faith makes you immune from civil liability. Your (the reporter's) name is confidential, so it is made known only with your consent, by a court order, or by a court procedure. Failure to make a report of known or suspected maltreatment of a child, could result in a mandated reporter being charged with a misdemeanor offense. Verbal reports must be made immediately (no longer than 24 hours), and written reports must be submitted within 72 hours following the verbal report if the report is assigned.

The above timelines initiate from the time you hear about, witness, or suspect child maltreatment. The information can come to you through a variety of directions. Some examples can include (but of course, are not limited to): Hearing rumors through your neighborhood, or seeing a child with a suspicious mark or injury (the explanation does not match the injury). You might see young children left alone in a vehicle (call 911). Maybe a child in your care grows to trust in you enough to tell you about their maltreatment.

**Dakota County
Child Care Licensing**

December 08 — January 09

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Winter
- ☺ Emergency University
- ☺ Crib Recall
- ☺ Resources
- ☺ Safety
- ☺ Handwashing

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It is imperative to always remember that when a child makes any kind of admission to being maltreated, it is your duty to report it immediately. Please remember **not** to attempt to interview the child to gain more information. Child protection investigators and law enforcement many times only have one chance to gain a viable interview from a child. That viable interview is usually the initial one. Another very important reminder is to not tell the parent or others (remember last month's confidentiality article) that a child protection report has been made. You are encouraged to call your licensor if you need to talk to someone, or to receive reassurance.



Some mandated reporters are unsure of where to report. Remember, determine if the child is in immediate danger. If so, call 911. The police and social services can deal with these cases 24 hours a day. If you do not think immediate danger is an issue, call social services intake during business hours at 952-891-7400. If it is after hours, call our Crisis Line at 952-891-7171. Your own police department is also an option, but they are limited to taking cases only if the crime occurs in their jurisdiction. If you call them, they can direct you to the correct police department. The police investigators and the county child protection investigators are required by law to cross-report with each other. If you report to one, they will cross-report to the other. If the case will be assigned for investigation, you have 72 hours (not including weekends/holidays) to submit a written report. If the case will not be assigned, a written follow-up is not necessary.

When you make a report, you will be asked the usual questions (name, phone number, relationship to the child, and information on the parents). It is permitted to give this information to social services or the police. Give simple and accurate information about the actual or suspected maltreatment. Don't embellish or give extra information about what you think is happening. If you have prior concerns about the child that you have documented, please include that information with dates. If you report to Dakota County Child Protection Intake, you will find the social workers in that area to be very knowledgeable and easy to talk to (they told me to say that). They are great listeners, problem solvers, and they can give you resources and advice.

Now that you have read all of the above information, here is a quick review on what child maltreatment can include.

Child Neglect

1. Inadequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care
2. Abandonment
3. Exposure to threatening or endangering conditions
4. Educational neglect
5. Prenatal exposure to certain controlled substances
6. Inadequate supervision
7. A physical injury resulting from hazardous conditions not corrected by the parent or guardian
8. Failure to provide for a child's special needs
9. Exposure to, or involvement in, criminal activities

Physical Abuse

1. An injury that appears to be non-accidental in nature, inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care
2. A physical injury resulting from hazardous conditions not corrected by a parent or guardian
3. Any physical injury that cannot be reasonably explained by the child's history of injuries

Physical abuse does not include reasonable and moderate physical discipline of a child administered by a parent or guardian that does not result in injury.

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Rule Reminders Dec/Jan 2009

Winter is upon us and the temperature is sure to drop as only Minnesota temperatures can. Providers often question whether they are required to bring children outdoors during the winter months.

The answer to this question begins in *MN Rules 9502.0415, Subp.1:*

Activities and Equipment - General Activities: *Day care activities must provide for the physical, emotional, and social development of the child. The environment must facilitate the implementation of the activities. Activities must:*

A. be scheduled indoors and outdoors, weather permitting;

B. be appropriate to the developmental stage and age of the child;

C. include active and quiet activity; and

D. contain provider-directed and child-initiated activity.

Although there is a lot of debate about "weather permitting," even conservative estimates encourage outdoor activities if the weather is above zero (including wind chill). Outdoor air is fresh and humidified; time outdoors stimulates appetites, decreases stress and aggressiveness, and deepens sleep at nap and bedtime. While no child should be out in dangerously cold temperatures, with appropriate dress and attention we all benefit from being outdoors.

*MN Rules 9502.0435, Subpart 10:
Sanitation and Health - Separation*

of personal articles: Separate towels, wash cloths, drinking cups, combs, and other personal articles must be used for each child in care.

This rule is of particular importance in the flu and cold season with illnesses making the rounds, affecting nearly all of the children in care. You can help decrease how contagious an illness is by following sanitation and health guidelines in the Minnesota Child Care Rule, separating personal articles and practicing good hand-washing. Both you and the children you care for will have a happier, healthier winter season.



Did You Know?

Hand washing is the cheapest, easiest, single most effective way to prevent the spread of disease caused by germs. Caregivers who teach and model good hand washing can significantly reduce illness in their daycare homes.

The rule states that children's hands must be washed with soap and water when soiled, after toileting, and before eating a snack or meal. The rule also states that caregivers need to wash their hands with soap and water after each diaper change, after assisting a child on the toilet, after washing the diapering surface and before food preparation.

Purell type disinfectants can be used on those occasions when soap and water are not available.

Resources are available for providers interested in making hand washing fun!

- Minnesota Department of Health - www.health.state.mn.us/handhygiene/toolkit/index.html
- Books, video, and curriculum available through the Dakota County Library include:
 - Those Mean Nasty Dirty Downright Disgusting...but Invisible Germs by Judith Anne Rice
 - Germs Make Me Sick by Melvin Berger
 - Your Skin and Mine by Paul Showers
 - Wash Your Hands by Tony Ross
 - Germs are Not for Sharing by Elizabeth Verdick
 - Why, How and When to Wash Hands - video plus curriculum. VC613.41 W62
 - Keep Clean - video found in juvenile non-fiction VCJ613.41 K25



Supervision U

Upcoming Training

NOTE: WSC denotes the Western Service Center in Apple Valley and NSC denotes the Northern Service Center in West St. Paul.

<u>CORE courses (required)</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. Super Care Starts with SuperVision	12/2/08	6:30-8:30	NSC 110
	2/12/09	6:30-8:30	WSCL139
	9/8/09	6:30-8:30	NSC 110

Also look for Supervision class options in the RCC catalog

2. Supervision Thru the Preschool Stages	4/9/09	6:30-8:30	WSC L139
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Both preschool and toddler courses need to be completed for Supervision U

Supervision Thru the Infant/Toddler Stages 4/23/09 6:30-8:30 WSC L139
(These classes meet the child development training requirement)

3. Managing the Child Care Environment	11/24/08	6:30-8:30	AV Comm Ctr
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(Register thru RCC)

ELECTIVES (choose three)

1. **Rule Review/Handbook** 3/7/09 at the DCFCCA conference
Pick up a handbook from your licensor and take the post test for 2 hours of training credit
2. **Group Dynamics** 10/1/09 6:30-8:30 WSC L139
3. **Temperament** 2/17/09 6:30-8:30 WSC L139 (Register thru RCC)
4. **Stress & Burnout**
5. **Behavior Guidance** 3/24/09 6:30-8:30 WSC L139 (Register thru RCC)
"Magic Tricks"
6. **Supervision Home Tour** 3/7/09 at the DCFCCA conference

To register for the FREE Dakota County licensing sponsored classes, contact Sue Jahnke @ susan.jahnke@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7229

To register for classes offered through RCC, call 651-641-3549 or register on-line at www.mnstreams.org or mail in the class registration form from the RCC catalog. There is a class fee for RCC training.

Rev 10/08



FREE FREE FREE

Are you interested in an opportunity for ...

- **FREE** training?
- **FREE** food sampling?
- **FREE** preschool nutrition curriculum?
- **FREE** program kit materials, menus, handouts, and supplies?
- **FREE** light meal served at the beginning of each training session?
- Enhancing healthy eating habits for a lifetime?

Dakota County Public Health Childhood Obesity Prevention task force, in collaboration with Child Care Licensing, is offering **FREE** training for child care providers. Come and find out about the LANA (Learning About Nutrition through Activities) preschool program by attending one of the training sessions listed below. After being trained in the program, providers will have an opportunity to sign up for more **FREE** program materials if they agree to implement the program.

Three training sessions have been scheduled. Attend the **ONE** that is most convenient:

Tuesday, January 27th 6:00-9:00 PM	Northern Service Center 110 A&B
Saturday, January 31 st 9:00 AM-Noon	Western Service Center L139
Thursday, February 5 th 6:00-9:00 PM	Western Service Center L139

SIGN UP EARLY! Each session is limited to 35 participants.

To register, please contact Sarah Parkos at 952-891-7327 or sarah.parkos@co.dakota.mn.us

From Your Licensing Workers...Continued from page 2



Be aware of bruises, welts, burns, bite marks, cuts, fractures, swelling, or lost teeth. Also be aware of possible internal injuries (needs medical attention). Be alert to multiple injuries, a history of repeated injuries, new injuries added to old injuries, and untreated injuries. You may come across bruise like marks especially on the lower back or buttocks of a child. These may be Mongolian spots, often noted in children of color. Parents should carry a note from the child's doctor indicating that these are not the result of physical abuse. If the parent has not provided such a note, call the intake people for advice.

Threatened Physical Abuse

1. A statement, overt act, condition or status that represents a substantial risk of physical abuse to a child
2. Exposing a child to a person responsible for the child's care who has:
 - a. Subjected a child to, or failed to protect a child from, an overt act or condition that constitutes egregious harm
 - b. Been found to be unfit
 - c. Committed an act that resulted in an involuntary termination of parental rights

Sexual Abuse

1. The subjection of a child to sexual contact by a person responsible for the child's care, a person with a significant relationship to the child, or a person of authority
2. Sexual contact includes fondling, touching intimate parts of the body, and sexual intercourse
3. The use of a child in prostitution or in the production of sexually explicit works
4. Knowingly allowing a child to engage in prostitution or the production of sexually explicit works
5. Threatened sexual abuse

Emotional Abuse

An injury to the psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child (noted by an observable or substantial impairment in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior).

Hopefully this article dispelled some of your apprehensions around mandated reporting. Remember that when you are required to report any maltreatment immediately, do so as quickly as possible. Don't attempt to pass the report off on to someone else, or don't wait a day or so to think about. Just make the report in good faith, and let the authorities take it from there. Maybe your voice will be the only voice that can start the change for a child who is helpless and is being abused.

P.S. For those of you who have not yet taken the post-test from the Provider Handbook, the answer to question number 27, is both A and B. I think the question is kind of tricky!

Pass It On

Helena Bishop has found a web site that has information on safety window coverings with children and they give away free mini blind cord safety clips. Check it out.

<http://www.windowcoverings.org/index.html>



Here's a Pass It On from Karla Dombrock, Burnsville:

"Have a whistle in your diaper/travel bag. It's great to alert kids on a walk or at a park if necessary. The sound is louder than your voice (probably)".

Emergency University

offers on-line First Aid and CPR training with a "hands-on" touch

The licensing staff recently asked two providers, Christine Schmitz and Terri Lee, to critique the on-line training through Emergency U. Based on their experience and feedback, this First Aid and CPR training resource will now be approved. Christine reported that she was provided a Child Care Provider Training Package which met the latest guidelines established by the American Heart Association. She felt the video classes were detailed, short, and allowed for review as often as needed prior to taking the online test. Terri also reports that her experience with Emergency University was an overall success. They provided online multimedia training followed by demonstration of skills by a qualified instructor. Their website is easy to navigate and are AHA/ILCOR Guidelines Compliant, GSA Approved and U.S. Health and Human Services Approved.

The child care package fee, which includes online Adult and Infant/Child CPR as well as First Aid, was \$49.95. Terri and Christine both enjoyed the convenience of being able to access the curriculum online. They were able to learn the material at their own pace and at their convenience, 24/7. Participants are allowed the ability to take the online practice tests over and over as review before the hands-on portion. They estimate their time to complete all three courses was approximately 1 1/2 hours.

Since CPR training has a hands-on requirement, providers can schedule the ½ -1 hour hands-on skills test through Emergency U with an instructor in your area. The cost is \$35. Or, if you have 5 individuals to take the test, the instructor will come to your home! Both Christine and Terri spoke further with Emergency U regarding their ability to secure instructors within Dakota County. In response, their representative, Tim, indicated that they are willing to set something up with Dakota County. He also mentioned that they can set up a special group rate that would allow students registering to indicate they are Dakota County providers and receive a special discount on the price of the course.

Tim suggested you contact him to set up such a program or to discuss any other concerns or questions you may have. He can be contacted at 866-233-4357.

To participate, contact:

Emergency University

622 Sylvan Way

Redwood City, CA 94062

Tel: 1-866-AED-HELP, 650-365-3310

Fax: 650-365-9374

Email: info@emergencyuniversity.com



Crib Recall	Minnesota Center for Professional Development
<p>You may have read in the Star Tribune or seen on KARE 11 that Delta Enterprises announced a voluntary recall of some crib models, prompted by the deaths of two babies. You may call Delta Enterprises at 1-800-816-5304 or visit their website or the CPSC website for details. It is important for you to be checking the Consumer Product Safety Commission website and performing monthly crib safety checks as required.</p>	<p>The Minnesota training registry is now up and running. Visit their website at www.MNCPD.org</p> <p>This Training Registry Promotes Quality Child Care By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing quality training available locally and throughout the state • Recognizes child care provider's training and education • On-line tracking of child care provider's professional training records

**Dakota County Child Care
Licensing**



Dakota County Social Services
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Phone: (952) 891-7400
Fax: (952) 891-7374

We're On The Web!!
www.dakotacounty.mn.us

2009 Family Child Care Resource Booklet
Now available on our website through your licensor.

A WORD OF THANKS AND RECOGNITION

From Mary Jo Heieren

By the time you read this, I will be retired! Yes, that's right. I can hardly believe it myself. But I wanted one last opportunity to thank Dakota County child care providers for their efforts and commitment to young children. We, the licensing staff, have said many times, "I don't know how providers do it". I have enjoyed meeting many of you and working with the talented DCFCCA Board. The new supervisor is Marian Eisner. Feel free to give her a call and introduce yourself.

May you "*Shine Brightly without Burning Out*"

Mini-Blind Cord Safety

Avoid tragic accidents or injury with safety tips on this FREE website:

<http://www.windowcoverings.org/index.html>

T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship avail

The T.E.A.C.H. MINNESOTA program has been helping child care providers earn degrees in their field since 2002. The program covers books, tuition, and travel stipends. Find out more from www.mnchildcare.org or call the Minnesota CCR&R @ 651-290-9704

"As I've learned and continued my education, I can see the children learning more and responding so well to the new tools I have. It's been truly gratifying to see.:"

Child Care Provider

Dakota County Child Care Licensing

Hastings, Inver Grove Heights

Becky Elrasheedy 952-891-7361
Becky.Elrasheedy@co.dakota.mn.us

Apple Valley and Burnsville L-Z

Laurie Haenke 952-891-7485
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South St. Paul and Rosemount S-Z

Maura Johnson 952-891-7362
Maura.Johnson@co.dakota.mn.us

Lakeville & surrounding areas, Burnsville A-K, and Mendota Heights

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Website:

www.dakotacounty.us/HealthFamily/ChildCareProviders