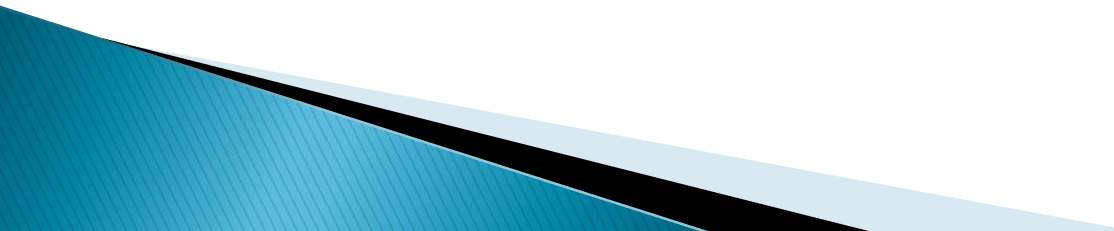




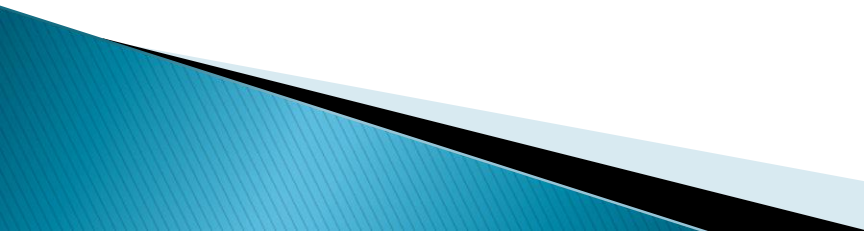
Respond Responsibly to Child Abuse and Neglect

What Mandated Reporters Should Know

Training Goals

- 1. To understand the definitions of abuse and neglect in the Commonwealth of Virginia.**
 - 2. To understand the procedures for a Child Protective Services (CPS) response to valid allegations of abuse or neglect**
 - 3. To understand the responsibilities of mandated reporters, and how anyone can make a report to CPS**
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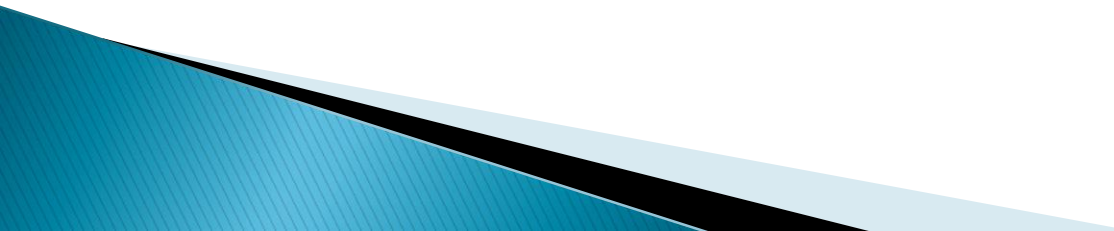
Core Requirements for Child Abuse and Neglect

1. Must be a child currently under 18 years of age
 2. Allegation must have been committed by a caretaker of the victim child
 3. Allegation must meet the definition of a type of child abuse or neglect
 4. Jurisdiction
- 

Prevention Services

When a report of abuse/neglect does not meet the criteria to be accepted as a CPS assessment or investigation, prevention services are sometimes offered to the family.

The family must be willing to accept and engage in the services being offered.



Types of Child Abuse and Neglect

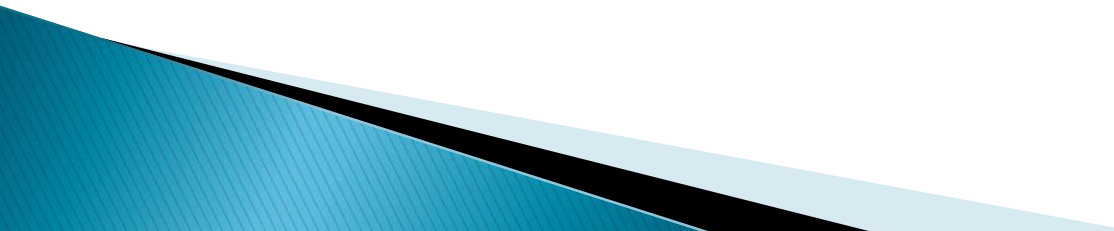
1. Physical Abuse

- Acts that lead to injury or risk of injury
- Exposure to the sale or manufacture of a Schedule 1 drug

2. Physical Neglect

- Inadequate food, clothing, hygiene, or shelter
- Inadequate supervision
 - Guidelines

Supervision Guidelines

- 8 years and younger should never be left alone
 - 9–10 years may be alone for up to 1.5 hours
 - 11–12 years may be alone for up to 3 hours
 - 13–15 years cannot be alone overnight
 - 16 –17 years may be alone overnight for 1–2 days
- 

Types of Child Abuse and Neglect

3. Medical Neglect

- Failure to provide necessary medical treatment for a condition that could result in significant harm
- Includes psychiatric treatment for serious mental health conditions

4. Mental Abuse / Neglect

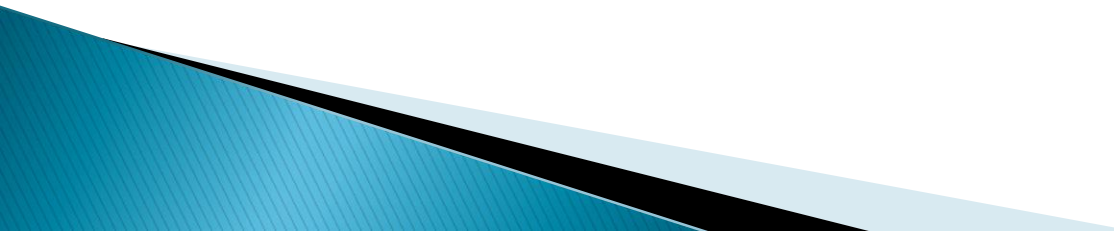
- Actions or inactions that lead to a mental injury

Types of Child Abuse and Neglect

5. Substance-exposed Infants

- Newborns that test positive for a controlled substance not prescribed to the mother
- Newborns that show signs of addiction to a controlled substance or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

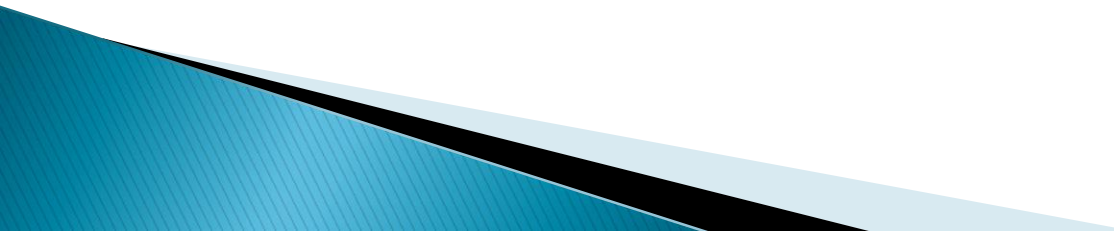
6. Sexual Abuse

- Any act of sexual exploitation or any sexual act upon a child in violation of the law
 - Always investigated with law enforcement
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Mandated Reporters

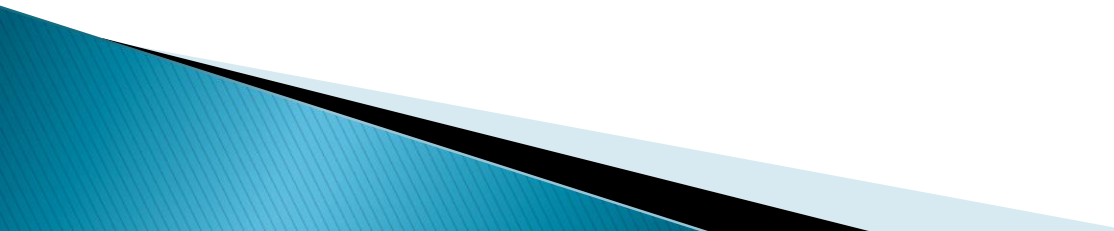
- Who is a mandated reporter in Virginia?
- **Requirements and possible penalties for not reporting**
 - According to the Code of Virginia § 63.2-1509 D, a person required to report who fails to do so as soon as possible, but **not longer than 24 hours** after having a reason to suspect a reportable offense of child abuse or neglect shall be fined not more than \$500 for the first failure and for any subsequent failures not less than \$1000.
 - If the LDSS becomes aware of an incident involving a mandated reporter who failed to report pursuant to the Code of Virginia, the LDSS must report the incident to the local Commonwealth's Attorney.

Making a Report to CPS

- Confidentiality for Complainants
 - Information that Complainants receive
 - Reporting Anonymously
 - Mandated Reporters shall disclose all relevant information even if not the Complainant
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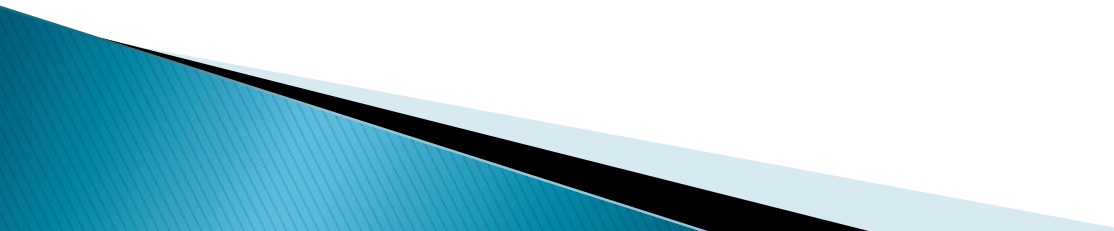
CPS Procedures Part 1

Every referral starts at the Hotline

- Local and State Hotline
 - Decide a referral is valid and assign to a worker; or screen-out if not valid.
 - In 2018, Alexandria CPS received 1,522 abuse/neglect referrals. 569 were accepted and 953 were screened-out.
 - Hotline staff also gather information/follow up with reporters to help make decisions.
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CPS Procedures Part 2

Valid referrals are assigned to a CPS worker:

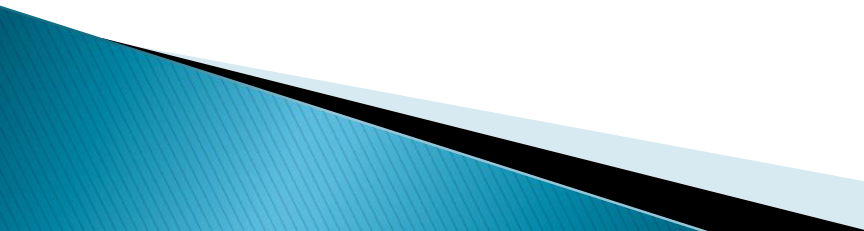
- A Family Assessment or Investigation is initiated
 - CPS Workers have 45–90 days to complete their interviews and gather information
 - Assessments of safety, future risk, family strengths and needs are completed
 - Dispositions (or Findings) are made in investigations
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CPS Procedures Part 3

At the end of the Family Assessment or Investigation, cases are either:

1. Closed with recommendations and/or community services (majority)
2. Opened for voluntary ongoing services
3. Opened for court-ordered ongoing services through a protective order
4. Opened for foster-care services by petitioning the court for custody of the child(ren)

Out-of-Family Investigations

- Valid referrals alleging abuse or neglect by a caretaker in a professional role are opened as investigations
 - These professionals include school staff, daycare providers, volunteer group leaders, and residential facility staff
 - These are often investigated with police, licensing agencies, or other professional regulators
 - Findings can have career implications
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How to Contact CPS

Local agency hotlines:

- Alexandria (703) 746-5800
- Arlington (703) 228-1500
- Fairfax (703) 324-7400
- All localities share information

State hotline:

- 1-800-552-7096

Questions?

