



**RESPONSIBLE SEX EDUCATION INSTITUTE:  
MANDATORY REPORTING & RESPONDING  
TO ABUSE**

**CASBHC ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
DENVER, CO  
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# MANDATORY REPORTING

- Know state laws
- Know state reporting procedures
- Know your organization's reporting procedures
- Have on-going training with staff



# MANDATORY REPORTING

- Mandatory reporters: doctors, nurses, licensed and unlicensed mental health workers and therapists, licensed clinical social workers must report actual or suspected child abuse and child neglect.
- Refer to the Colorado State Health Department website for a full list of mandatory reporters:

<http://www.coloradocwts.com/are-you-a-mandated-reporter>

- The mandatory reporter shall immediately upon receiving such information report or cause a report to be made of such fact to the county department, the local law enforcement agency, or through the child abuse reporting hotline system at **1-844-CO-4KIDS (1-844-264-5437)**



# MANDATORY REPORTING SITUATIONS

- “Abuse” and “Neglect” include physical violence, inattention to basic needs, and psychological
- Those terms also include sexual abuse of all kinds, including rape, any non-consensual sexual contact and statutory rape\*:
  - 14 & under: Must report if partner is 4 or more years older.
  - 15 or 16: Must report if partner is 10 or more years older

*\*Refer to Colorado Legislative Council Staff Legal Brief*

- Disclosure of suicidal tendencies and thoughts
- Disclosure that the participant is going to physically or sexually assault another person



# MANDATORY REPORTING

<http://www.coloradocwts.com/mandated-reporter-training>



The screenshot shows the website for the Colorado Child Welfare Training System. At the top left is the logo for the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and the Office of Children, Youth & Families, Division of Child Welfare. The page title is "Child Welfare Training System". Navigation links include "How To Use This Site", "My Account", and "Contact Us". A main navigation bar contains "Home", "About", "Find a Class", "Guidelines", "FAQs", "Regional Training Centers", "Trainer Pool", and "News".

## Mandatory Reporter Training

This training is for individuals who are required by law to make reports of child abuse and/or neglect.

The training is designed to be flexible, so the amount of time it takes you to complete it may vary. Please count on spending approximately two hours. If you need to stop and come back, don't worry -- if you're using the same computer, the training will automatically take you to where you left off. If you need to login from a different computer, just remember the section you were on and you can easily navigate to your page by using the links on the Table of Contents.

**Are You a Mandatory Reporter?**

If you are an educator, first responder, healthcare provider, or mental health professional, please take the training identified specifically for your profession. All other mandatory reporters, please take the training for Colorado professionals.

If you are using a screen reader to access the training, you'll find a screen-reader accessible link to the curriculum at the top of this page, just below the "Mandatory Reporter Training" heading. You can also use the link at the bottom of this screen, Accessible Training for Screen Reader Users.

- Mandatory Reporter Training for Colorado Professionals
- Mandatory Reporter Training for Educators
- Mandatory Reporter Training for First Responders
- Mandatory Reporter Training for Healthcare Providers
- Mandatory Reporter Training for Mental Health Professionals



# RESPONDING TO ABUSE (PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH)

You can use the ACORE response:

- **A**ssure & Affirm
- **C**heck The Person's Immediate Needs
- **O**ptions
- **R**eferrals
- **E**mpathy



# ASSURE & AFFIRM

- First, make sure that what you heard is what the person meant and validate their feelings.
  - “That sounds like a really scary experience.”
  - “It sounds like you were sexually assaulted, am I hearing you right?”
  - “When did this happen? Are you all right today?”
  - “Are you feeling safe now?”
  - “I heard what you said earlier... did I hear you right?”



# CHECK NEEDS

- Second, check the person's needs.
  - “What, if anything, do you need today?”
  - “Do you need medical attention?”
  - “Do you want to go to the emergency room?”
  - “Do you need EC?”





# OPTIONS

- Traumatic experiences often leave people feeling cornered, without options, or trapped. Help by giving them some options.
- Remember that NOT doing anything is always an option for them (if they are 17+).
  - “Would you like to share more about your experience?”
  - “Do you know you have some choices: to report or not to report, to share details with whomever you choose, to seek care, to call a rape crisis center.”



# REFERRALS

- Fourth, if possible, help connect them with people for follow up help
- Provide them with resources in your area\*

*\*Refer to list of Sexual Assault Resources*

- Refer to list of National Domestic Violence Resources



EXPRESS EMPATHY (VIDEO LINK: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/1EvwGU369Jw](https://youtu.be/1EvwGU369Jw))

- Finally, thank them for trusting you and sharing such personal information with you.
  - “Thank you for sharing that with me. I hope you get what you need from (insert referral info).”
  - “I understand this must have been difficult to share – I want to thank you for sharing that with me and also to let you know that I am going to have to discuss your situation with my supervisor and we may need to report what happened.”



# ACTIVITY

- Read scenario
- Using the ACORE response, write one or two sentences on how you would respond in each step
- Then, write one or two sentences that would inform the youth that you are going to report this to the proper authorities
- Once the worksheet has been filled in, practice with your partner by first reading the scenario and then reading your responses to the prompts below



# FINAL THOUGHTS

- Follow your organization's protocol when reporting
- Remember your own boundaries and training in handling abuse – refer to someone who can handle the situation with the time and care it deserves
- Don't make any promises to youth about what will happen upon breaking confidentiality
- It is important for us to be sure youth feel safe and that they are provided with *appropriate* empathy, support and referrals

