



# The CAPC Connection

A publication of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Santa Barbara County because their world depends on us!  
Member of the Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Council March 2009

## Resourcefulness . . .

Perhaps many of you reading this had the opportunity to attend the Mandated Reporter Train-the-Trainer training held in October 2008, but perhaps some of you did not. This inaugural edition of The CAPC Connection will be devoted to bridging the gap between Mandated Reporters and the responsibilities that come along with being a Mandated Reporter. Highlights of the mandated reporter law will be given as well as community resources that you can use to either aid you in your job as a mandated reporter or help others.

### *But first . . . a history lesson!*

Many cities and counties have Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPC). CAPC's are "community councils whose main function is to coordinate the community's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse." According to the Welfare and Institutions Code each county is mandated to have at least one independent CAPC to access certain child abuse prevention funds. In Santa Barbara County the Board of Supervisors in 2002 established an independent CAPC that has been operating since that time.



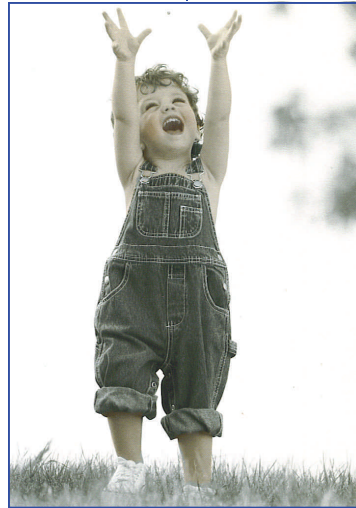
The primary responsibilities of a CAPC include:

- Service coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment, and legal processing of child abuse cases;
- Promoting public awareness for child abuse and neglect;
- Facilitating professional training; and
- Encouraging community support for child abuse and neglect programs.

Also worth noting is that in addition to public outreach, the CAPC also plays a primary role in recommending how prevention dollars are spent in Santa Barbara County. Continuing to build strong alliances among funding streams and those that practice primary prevention strategies ensures that child abuse prevention remains a high priority for organizations in Santa Barbara County.

While the Santa Barbara County CAPC (SBCAPC) operates under its own set of by-laws, the SBCAPC is also a member of the Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Coalition, includ-

ing San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. For further information on The Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Coalition, please visit the CTC-CAPC website by clicking here: [CTC-CAPC](#)



The purpose of this e-newsletter is simple . . . to provide you the reader with helpful tips, friendly reminders, and general information to use in your role as a Mandated Reporter. If anything, use this e-newsletter as a source of information to help guide you through the process of reporting suspected child abuse, as well as information on how to get help for the family, the child, and any others that may be affected. The SB-CAPC is available to lend you a hand whenever you may need it.

*The Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council welcomes your feed-back, ideas and training and resource requests.*

*E-mail us at:*  
[capc.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:capc.newsletter@gmail.com)

*The Child Abuse Prevention Council meets the third Thursday of every month (except August and December) from 10:30-12:30 at the St. Inez Mission. All meetings are open to the public. To receive agendas or for more information, please call the KIDS Network at 346-8222.*

## MANDATED REPORTER 101

Many individuals clearly understand what it means to be a mandated reporter, but for others, being a mandated reporter often brings about anxiety when making a report. Being a mandated reporter does not have to be scary but should bring about a feeling of completeness and satisfaction that the *right* thing was done to protect the child. Below are some simple things to remember when filing a Suspected Child Abuse Report Form (SCAR).

### What Do I Have To Report?

Under the law, when the victim is a child (a person under the age of 18) and the perpetrator is any person (including a child), the following types of abuse must be reported by all legally mandated reporters:

a. A physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child. (P.C. 11165.6) Note that child abuse *does not* include a “mutual affray” between minors. It also *does not* include an injury caused by “reasonable and necessary force used by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of his or her employment.” (P.C. 11165.6)

b. Sexual abuse of a child, including both sexual assault and sexual exploitation. “Sexual assault” includes sex acts with a child, lewd or lascivious acts with a child, and intentional masturbation in the presence of a child. “Sexual exploitation” includes preparing, selling, or distributing pornographic materials involving children; employing a minor to perform in pornography; and employing or coercing a child to engage in prostitution. (P.C. 11165.1)

c. Willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child, including



inflicting or permitting unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering. (P.C. 11165.3)

*Note: Any mandated reporter may report any child who is suffering serious emotional damage or is at substantial risk of suffering serious emotional damage. (P.C. 11166.05)*



d. Willful infliction of cruel or inhuman corporal punishment or injury resulting in a traumatic condition. (P.C. 11165.4)

e. Neglect of a child, whether “severe” or “general,” by a person responsible for the child’s welfare. The term “neglect” includes both acts or omissions harming or threatening to harm the child’s health or welfare. (P.C.

### 11165.2)

In the next issue of *The CAPC Connection* we will highlight when to make a report, but the most important thing to remember is **IF YOU SUSPECT IT, REPORT IT!** Remember, Child Welfare Services does NOT want you to investigate the allegation, nor do they expect it, as doing so may damage the child further. If a child discloses abuse or you suspect it, REPORT IT!

For more information on the basics of being a Mandated Reporter visit the [Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law](#).

*To receive a tent card with local phone numbers and the steps to filing a report, send us an e-mail with your address, and write “tent card” in the subject line.*

## Ways to Help Prevent Child Abuse

### ♥ Be a nurturing parent.

*Children need to know that they are special, loved and capable of following their dreams.*

### ♥ Help a friend, neighbor or relative.

*Being a parent isn’t easy. Offer a helping hand take care of the children, so the parent(s) can rest or spend time together.*

### ♥ Help yourself.

*When the big and little problems of your everyday life pile up to the point you feel overwhelmed and out of control – take time out. Don’t take it out on your kid.*

### ♥ If your baby cries...

*It can be frustrating to hear your baby cry. Learn what to do if your baby won’t stop crying. Never shake a baby – shaking a child may result in severe injury or death.*



### ♥ Get involved.

*Ask your community leaders, clergy, library and schools to develop services to meet the needs of healthy children and families.*

### ♥ Help to develop parenting resources at your local library.

### ♥ Promote programs in school.

*Teaching children, parents and teachers prevention strategies can help to keep children safe.*

### ♥ Monitor your child’s television and video viewing.

*Watching violent films and TV programs can harm young children.*

### ♥ Volunteer at a local child abuse prevention program.

*For information about volunteer opportunities, call 1.800.CHILDREN.*

### ♥ Report suspected abuse or neglect.



**UPCOMING ACTIVITES**

March 23rd is **INCREDIBLE KID DAY!** Kids are incredible every single day, but on March 23 make a intentional effort to let them know just how incredible they are.

If you work at a school, child care center, family child care, family resource center or other agency that works with children and families, encourage your staff to write a short note to each child telling them why they are INCREDIBLE.

Set out a little table with paper / pens / markers and encourage parents to write their child a note. It's easy to make up a little template on the computer.

The smile on a child's face when they read (or someone reads to them) their note is just amazing. AND it's a good reminder to adults to tell children often how incredible they are.

For more information, contact LuAnn Miller, Executive Director, Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc. (805) 968-0488 or visit [www.ivyp.org](http://www.ivyp.org)

**KIDS DAY IN THE PARK** sponsored by the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center will be held on May 17th at Waller Park in Santa Maria from 10-4. The event is fun for the WHOLE family. Booths will be set up by a variety of organizations and businesses that promote healthy families, safety awareness, and child abuse prevention. Local law enforcement entities will be present in the 'safety' corner. It's fun for ALL so help spread the word. For more information contact Arleen Lewis at 736-8535 or visit <http://ncrccpcevents.info/>

**THE 33<sup>rd</sup> PARENT'S ARE TEACHER'S TOO CONFERENCE**

*Safety Seat Technicians available to assist families in the proper installation of Child Safety Seats*

**WHAT:** The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Parent's are Teachers Too"

**WHERE:** Lompoc High School, 515 West College Ave, Lompoc, CA 93436

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 7, 2009 from registration 9:00-9:30 with workshops beginning at 9:30 and ending at 3:00 p.m. Conference registration fee is \$15.00 per person and pre-registration is required. The deadline to register is February 20<sup>th</sup> 2009. The event is for adults only. No childcare is available.

**WHO:** Event Sponsored by Lompoc Adult Education, First 5 Santa Barbara County, Community Action Commission, and Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

**BACKGROUND:**

Experts in child development, education, health, and family relations will present a wide variety of workshops. Parents attending the conference will receive information and materials to increase knowledge and parenting skills. A resource fair, with giveaways for parents in addition to lunch is included in the \$15.00 conference fee.

In addition to the workshops, this year's conference will feature keynote speaker Clinical Psychologist, Roberto Dansie, an expert on cultural diversity.

"The Parents Are Teachers, Too" conference typically attracts some 350 participants and is one of the largest events of its type in the state. It is co-sponsored by the Lompoc Unified Adult Education, First 5 Santa Barbara County, Community Action Commission, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and many other local community based organizations. Door prizes this year will include a computer donated by the Santa Ynez Valley Band of Chumash Indians.

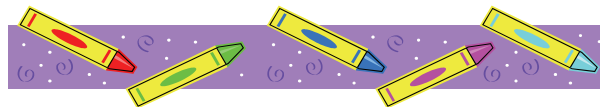
## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

In an effort to continue to build upon what we learned at the Train-The-Trainer training, as well as build upon our professional knowledge of child abuse prevention, the following scenarios are offered to you as a means to revive your brain on the issues. While many of us are fortunate to never be faced with reporting child abuse, some of us face the obstacle daily. All of us are much better suited to stay ahead of the game instead of trying to play catch up when an unfortunate situation presents itself. We will do nothing but help every child we ever come in contact with if we know *what* to do before we actually *have* to do it. Take a moment and think about the following scenarios and how you would respond. Answer the following with a Yes or No as to whether you would report.

As a Mandated Reporter, I am required by law to report the following:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I am a teacher, and while I was out walking my dog in my own neighborhood I observed a man angrily kick his child while screaming obscenities.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I am a teacher, and while on lunch duty at school, I observed a woman come to the school to pick her child up. The mother was yelling at the child on the way to her vehicle and the child was crying.
3. 3. \_\_\_\_\_ I am the principle of XYZ School and while on my way to a lunchtime meeting at the School Board office I observed a man punching what appeared to be a young teen.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I have a relationship outside of the classroom with a child's parent. Today the child disclosed to me that his father had made him touch his private parts.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I am the custodian at ABC High School and today while sweeping up the bathroom a young girl came in upset. I asked her what was wrong and she blurted out that she was assaulted a few weeks ago and she just saw the guy on the school grounds. She thought that he had been arrested.

Look for the answers in the next CAPC Connection.



## RESOURCES

- ♥ Child Welfare Services Child Abuse Reporting Hotline — 1-800-367-0166
- ♥ Santa Barbara County Kids Network — <http://www.countyofsb.org/kidsnet/Suspected Child Abuse Report Form> — [http://www.caag.state.ca.us/childabuse/pdf/ss\\_8572.pdf](http://www.caag.state.ca.us/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf)
- ♥ San Luis Obispo Child Abuse Prevention Council— <http://www.slocap.org/>
- ♥ Child Welfare Information Gateway — <http://www.childwelfare.gov/index.cfm>
- ♥ Office of the Attorney General Child Protection Program — <http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse/>
- ♥ Prevent Child Abuse America — <http://www.preventchildabuse.org/index.shtml>
- ♥ Child Abuse Prevention General Resources— <http://www.ncjrs.gov/childabuseprevention/general.html>