



Santa Monica Community College District

Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status

California law requires certain persons to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect. These individuals are known under the law as "mandated reporters." California Penal Code § 11166.5(a) requires that all mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect sign an acknowledgement of their legal duties and that the university retain it. Further, it requires that all mandated reporters be provided with the Penal Code provisions.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law (Penal Code, § 11166.5) Definitions: The following situations involving individuals under 18 years of age are reportable child abuse and neglect conditions:

- 1) Physical abuse
- 2) Sexual abuse
- 3) Child exploitation, child pornography and child prostitution
- 4) Severe or general neglect
- 5) Extreme corporal punishment resulting in injury
- 6) Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment
- 7) Abuse or neglect in out-of-home care

Who must Report: Any employee whose duties bring them into contact with children on a regular basis or any supervisor of such an employee is a mandated reporter effective January 1, 2013. This includes nearly all Santa Monica College employees including all Coaches and Assistant Coaches.

When to Report: Employees must make a telephone report immediately when the employee observes a child in his/her professional capacity or within the scope of his/her employment and has knowledge of, or has reasonable suspicion that the child has been abused. The employee must submit a written report, on a standard form, within 36 hours after the telephone report has been made.

To Whom Do You Report: Employees should report to the Child Protection Hotline, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling toll-free within California to (800) 540-4000. Alternatively, reports may be made to certain law enforcement agencies (but not Campus Police).

Reporting: Mandated reporters are required to give their names. Child protective agencies are required to keep the mandated reporter's name confidential, unless a court orders the information disclosed.

Immunity: Any legally mandated reporter has immunity when making a report. In the event a civil suit is filed against the reporter, the state will reimburse attorneys fees incurred up to \$50,000 (Penal Code, § 11172). In addition, the Santa Monica Community College District will pay for any mandated reporters' attorneys fees or judgment arising out of any report made in good faith in the course and scope of employment. No individual can be dismissed, disciplined or harassed for making a report of suspected child abuse.

Liability: Legally mandated reporters may be criminally liable for failing to report suspected abuse. The penalty for this misdemeanor is up to six months in county jail, a fine of not more than \$1,000 or both. Mandated reporters can also be civilly liable for failure to report.

Notification Regarding Abuse: You are not legally required to notify the parents that you are making a report.

Information: Additional information and training is available through the Santa Monica College Human Resources Office. For questions regarding this form, please contact the Human Resources Office at (310) 434-4415.

I have been provided copies of California Penal Code §§ 11165.7, 11666, and 11167. Under California Penal Code §11165.7, I am a mandated reporter of child abuse and neglect. As a mandated reporter of child abuse and neglect, I understand that **I have a legal obligation to report child abuse and neglect** and will comply with the law.

Employee Type: Adjunct Full-Time Faculty Management Regular Classified Student Employee Temporary Classified

Employee's Name (Print)

Signature Employee

Date