California Child Abuse Laws (P.C. 11166)

Stuff that MFTs need to know!
This article shall be known and may be cited as the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA).

The intent and purpose of CANRA is to protect children from abuse and neglect. In any investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect, all persons participating in the investigation of the case shall consider the needs of the child victim and shall do whatever is necessary to prevent psychological harm to the child victim.
What is a child?

Under the law, a "child" means a person under the age of 18 years. That means "has not yet attained the chronological age of 18 years."
What to report

"Reasonable suspicion" means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect.

The pregnancy of a minor does not, in and of itself, constitute a basis for a reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse.

The reporting agency shall be notified and a report shall be prepared and sent even if the child has expired (died), regardless of whether or not the possible abuse was a factor contributing to the death, and even if suspected child abuse was discovered during an autopsy.

A report made by a mandated reporter shall be known as a “mandated report.” (duh!)
What is Child Abuse?, Part I

"The willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child," means a situation in which any person willfully causes or permits any child to suffer, or inflicts thereon, unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or having the care or custody of any child, willfully causes or permits the person or health of the child to be placed in a situation in which his or her person or health is endangered.
"Sexual abuse," meaning sexual assault or sexual exploitation as defined by the following:

"Sexual assault" means rape, statutory rape, rape in concert, incest, sodomy, lewd or lascivious acts upon a child, oral copulation, sexual penetration, or child molestation.

Conduct described as "sexual assault" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- Any penetration, however slight, of the vagina or anal opening of one person by the penis of another person, whether or not there is the emission of semen.
- Any sexual contact between the genitals or anal opening of one person and the mouth or tongue of another person.
- Any intrusion by one person into the genitals or anal opening of another person, including the use of any object for this purpose, except that, it does not include acts performed for a valid medical purpose.
What is Child Abuse?, Part II, cont’d

- The intentional touching of the genitals or intimate parts (including the breasts, genital area, groin, inner thighs, and buttocks) or the clothing covering them, of a child, or of the perpetrator by a child, for purposes of sexual arousal or gratification, except that, it does not include acts which may reasonably be construed to be normal caretaker responsibilities; interactions with, or demonstrations of affection for, the child; or acts performed for a valid medical purpose.

- The intentional masturbation of the perpetrator’s genitals in the presence of a child.
"Sexual exploitation" refers to any of the following:

- Conduct involving matter depicting a minor engaged in obscene acts (preparing, selling, or distributing obscene matter) or employment of minor to perform obscene acts.
- Any person who knowingly promotes, aids, or assists, employs, uses, persuades, induces, or coerces a child, or any person responsible for a child's welfare, who knowingly permits or encourages a child to engage in, or assist others to engage in, prostitution or a live performance involving obscene sexual conduct, or to either pose or model alone or with others for purposes of preparing a film, photograph, negative, slide, drawing, painting, or other pictorial depiction, involving obscene sexual conduct. A "person responsible for a child's welfare" means a parent, guardian, foster parent, or a licensed administrator or employee of a public or private residential home, residential school, or other residential institution.
- Any person who depicts a child in, or who knowingly develops, duplicates, prints, or exchanges, any film, photograph, video tape, negative, or slide in which a child is engaged in an act of obscene sexual conduct, except for those activities by law enforcement and prosecution agencies.
What is “sexual conduct”?

“Sexual conduct” means any of the following:

- Sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex or between humans and animals.
- Penetration of the vagina or rectum by any object.
- Masturbation for the purpose of sexual stimulation of the viewer.
- Sadomasochistic abuse for the purpose of sexual stimulation of the viewer.
- Exhibition of the genitals, pubic, or rectal areas of any person for the purpose of sexual stimulation of the viewer.
"Neglect" means the negligent treatment or the maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare. The term includes both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person.

"Severe neglect" means the negligent failure of a person having the care or custody of a child to protect the child from severe malnutrition or medically diagnosed nonorganic failure to thrive. "Severe neglect" also means those situations of neglect where any person having the care or custody of a child willfully causes or permits the person or health of the child to be placed in a situation such that his or her person or health is endangered, including the intentional failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care.
"General neglect" means the negligent failure of a person having the care or custody of a child to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision where no physical injury to the child has occurred.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A child receiving treatment by spiritual means or not receiving specified medical treatment for religious reasons, shall not for that reason alone be considered a neglected child. An informed and appropriate medical decision made by parent or guardian after consultation with a physician or physicians who have examined the minor does not constitute neglect.
What is Child Abuse, Part V

"Unlawful corporal punishment or injury" means a situation where any person willfully inflicts upon any child any cruel or inhuman corporal punishment or injury resulting in a traumatic condition.

It does not include an amount of force that is reasonable and necessary for a person employed by or engaged in a public school to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to person or damage to property, for purposes of self-defense, or to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the pupil, as authorized by the Education Code.

It 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 as a peace officer.
"Child abuse or neglect in out-of-home care" includes physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by another person by other than accidental means, sexual abuse, neglect, unlawful corporal punishment, or the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child where the person responsible for the child's welfare is a licensee, administrator, or employee of any facility licensed to care for children, or an administrator or employee of a public or private school or other institution or agency.

"Abuse or neglect in out-of-home care" 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 as a peace officer.
What is Child Abuse?, Considerations

"Child abuse or neglect" includes physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person, sexual abuse, the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child, and unlawful corporal punishment or injury.

"Child abuse or neglect" does not include a mutual affray between minors.

"Child abuse or neglect" 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 as a peace officer.
Who is a mandated reporter?

- A teacher.
- An instructional aide.
- A teacher's aide or teacher's assistant employed by any public or private school.
- A classified employee of any public school.
- An administrative officer or supervisor of child welfare and attendance, or a certificated pupil personnel employee of any public or private school.
- An administrator of a public or private day camp.
- An administrator or employee of a public or private youth center, youth recreation program, or youth organization.
- An administrator or employee of a public or private organization whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children.
- Any employee of a county office of education or the California Department of Education, whose duties bring the employee into contact with children on a regular basis.
- A licensee, an administrator, or an employee of a licensed community care or child day care facility.
Who is a mandated reporter?

- A Head Start program teacher.
- A licensing worker or licensing evaluator employed by a licensing agency.
- A public assistance worker.
- An employee of a child care institution, including, but not limited to, foster parents, group home personnel, and personnel of residential care facilities.
- A social worker, probation officer, or parole officer.
- An employee of a school district police or security department.
- Any person who is an administrator or presenter of, or a counselor in, a child abuse prevention program in any public or private school.
- A district attorney investigator, inspector, or local child support agency caseworker unless the investigator, inspector, or caseworker is working with an attorney appointed to represent a minor.
- A peace officer, who is not otherwise described in this section.
- A firefighter, except for volunteer firefighters.
Who is a mandated reporter?

- A physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, psychologist, dentist, resident, intern, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, dental hygienist, optometrist, marriage, family and child counselor, clinical social worker, or any other person who is currently licensed under Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
- Any emergency medical technician, paramedic, or other person certified pursuant to Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
- A psychological assistant registered pursuant to the Business and Professions Code.
- A marriage, family, and child therapist trainee, as defined in the Business and Professions Code.
- An unlicensed but registered marriage, family, and child therapist intern as defined in the Business and Professions Code.
- A state or county public health employee who treats a minor for venereal disease or any other condition.
- A coroner.
- A medical examiner, or any other person who performs autopsies.
Who is a mandated reporter?

A commercial film and photographic print or image processor as specified in subdivision (e) of Section 11166. As used in this article, "commercial film and photographic print or image processor" means a person who develops exposed photographic film into negatives, slides, or prints, or who makes prints from negatives or slides, or who prepares, publishes, produces, develops, duplicates, or prints any representation of information, data, or an image, including, but not limited to, any film, filmstrip, photograph, negative, slide, photocopy, videotape, video laser disk, computer hardware, computer software, computer floppy disk, data storage medium, CD-ROM, computer-generated equipment, or computer-generated image, for compensation. The term includes any employee of that person; it does not include a person who develops film or makes prints or images for a public agency.

A child visitation monitor. As used in this article, "child visitation monitor" means any person who, for financial compensation, acts as monitor of a visit between a child and any other person when the monitoring of that visit has been ordered by a court of law.
Who is a mandated reporter?

- An animal control officer or humane society officer. For the purposes of this article, the following terms have the following meanings:

  - "Animal control officer" means any person employed by a city, county, or city and county for the purpose of enforcing animal control laws or regulations.

  - "Humane society officer" means any person appointed or employed by a public or private entity as a humane officer who is qualified pursuant to the Corporations Code.

- A clergy member. As "clergy member" means a priest, minister, rabbi, religious practitioner, or similar functionary of a church, temple, or recognized denomination or organization.

- Any custodian of records of a clergy member.

- Any employee of any police department, county sheriff's department, county probation department, or county welfare department.

- An employee or volunteer of a Court Appointed Special Advocate program.

- A custodial officer.
Who is a mandated reporter?

A person providing services to a minor child under the Welfare and Institutions Code.

- An alcohol and drug counselor. A "alcohol and drug counselor" is a person providing counseling, therapy, or other clinical services for a state licensed or certified drug, alcohol, or drug and alcohol treatment program. However, alcohol or drug abuse, or both alcohol and drug abuse, is not, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect.
- A clinical counselor trainee.
- A clinical counselor registered intern.
- An employee or administrator of a public or private postsecondary institution, whose duties bring the administrator or employee into contact with children on a regular basis, or who supervises those whose duties bring the administrator or employee into contact with children on a regular basis, as to child abuse or neglect occurring on that institution's premises or at an official activity of, or program conducted by, the institution.
- An athletic coach, athletic administrator, or athletic director employed by any public or private school that provides any combination of instruction for kindergarten, or grades 1 to 12, inclusive.
Who is a mandated reporter?

A "commercial computer technician," defined as one who works for a company that is in the business of repairing, installing, or otherwise servicing a computer or computer component, including, but not limited to, a computer part, device, memory storage or recording mechanism, auxiliary storage recording or memory capacity, or any other material relating to the operation and maintenance of a computer or computer network system, for a fee.

An employer of a commercial computer technician may implement internal procedures for facilitating reporting. These procedures may direct employees who are mandated reporters under this paragraph to report to an employee who is designated by the employer to receive the reports. Said shall be a commercial computer technician and shall be subject to the protections afforded to mandated reporters.

Any athletic coach, including, but not limited to, an assistant coach or a graduate assistant involved in coaching, at public or private postsecondary institutions.

NEW ADDITIONS IN GREEN
Training the mandated reporter . . .

Private organizations whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of children are not mandated reporters but are encouraged to obtain training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect and are further encouraged to report known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect. Employers are strongly encouraged to provide their employees who are mandated reporters with training in the duties imposed by CANRA. This training shall include training in child abuse and neglect identification and reporting. Whether or not employers provide their employees with training in child abuse and neglect identification and reporting, the employers shall provide their employees who are mandated reporters with the statement informing them of their status and responsibilities.

School districts that do not train their employees in the duties of mandated reporters under CANRA shall report to the State Department of Education the reasons why this training is not provided.

Unless otherwise specifically provided, the absence of training shall not excuse a mandated reporter from the duties imposed by CANRA.

Public and private organizations are encouraged to provide their volunteers whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of children with training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect.
Where to report . . .

Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be made by mandated reporters to any police department or sheriff’s department (not including a school district police or security department), county probation department, if designated by the county to receive mandated reports, or the county welfare department. Any of those agencies shall accept a report of suspected child abuse or neglect whether offered by a mandated reporter or another person, or referred by another agency, even if the agency to whom the report is being made lacks subject matter or geographical jurisdiction to investigate the reported case, unless the agency can immediately electronically transfer the call to an agency with proper jurisdiction.

When an agency takes a report about a case of suspected child abuse or neglect in which that agency lacks jurisdiction, the agency shall immediately refer the case by telephone, fax, or electronic transmission to an agency with proper jurisdiction.

Agencies that are required to receive reports of suspected child abuse or neglect may not refuse to accept a report of suspected child abuse or neglect from a mandated reporter or another person unless otherwise authorized pursuant to this section, and shall maintain a record of all reports received.
Various “Report Types”

"Substantiated report" means a report that is determined by the investigator who conducted the investigation to constitute child abuse or neglect, based upon evidence that makes it more likely than not that child abuse or neglect, as defined, occurred. A substantiated report shall not include a report where the investigator who conducted the investigation found the report to be false, inherently improbable, to involve an accidental injury, or to not constitute child abuse or neglect.

"Unfounded report" means a report that is determined by the investigator who conducted the investigation to be false, to be inherently improbable, to involve an accidental injury, or not to constitute child abuse or neglect.

"Inconclusive report" means a report that is determined by the investigator who conducted the investigation not to be unfounded, but the findings are inconclusive and there is insufficient evidence to determine whether child abuse or neglect, has occurred.
Reporting of Emotional Abuse

You know, those are the bruises that NEVER heal!

Any mandated reporter who has knowledge of or who reasonably suspects that a child is suffering serious emotional damage or is at a substantial risk of suffering serious emotional damage, evidenced by states of being or behavior, including, but not limited to, severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or untoward aggressive behavior toward self or others, may make a report to an agency.

The reporting of “Emotional Abuse” is optional . . .
What not to report . . .

A positive toxicology screen at the time of the delivery of an infant is not in and of itself a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect. However, any indication of maternal substance abuse shall lead to an assessment of the needs of the mother and child pursuant to the Health and Safety Code.

If other factors are present that indicate risk to a child, then a report shall be made. However, a report based on risk to a child which relates solely to the inability of the parent to provide the child with regular care due to the parent's substance abuse shall be made only to a county welfare or probation department, and not to a law enforcement agency.
Allegations against School Employees

The appropriate local law enforcement agency shall investigate a child abuse complaint filed by a parent or guardian against a school employee or other person that commits an act of child abuse, as defined in CANRA, against a pupil at a school site, and shall transmit a “substantiated report” of that investigation to the governing board of the appropriate school district or county office of education.

A “substantiated report” received by a governing board of a school district or county office of education shall be subject to the provisions of the Education Code.
When/How to report

A mandated reporter shall make a report to an appropriate agency whenever the mandated reporter, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. The mandated reporter shall make a report to the agency immediately or as soon as is practicably possible by telephone, and the mandated reporter shall prepare and send a written report within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. The mandated reporter may include with the report any nonprivileged documentary evidence the mandated reporter possesses relating to the incident.

"Reasonable suspicion" means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect. "Reasonable suspicion" does not require certainty that child abuse or neglect has occurred nor does it require a specific medical indication of child abuse or neglect; any "reasonable suspicion" is sufficient. The pregnancy of a minor does not, in and of itself, constitute a basis for a reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse.
When/How to report, cont’d

The agency shall be notified and a report shall be prepared and sent, faxed, or electronically transmitted even if the child has expired, regardless of whether or not the possible abuse was a factor contributing to the death, and even if suspected child abuse was discovered during an autopsy.

If after reasonable efforts a mandated reporter is unable to submit an initial report by telephone, he or she shall immediately or as soon as is practicably possible, by fax or electronic transmission, make a one-time automated written report on the form prescribed by the Department of Justice, and shall also be available to respond to a telephone followup call by the agency with which he or she filed the report. A mandated reporter who files a one-time automated written report because he or she was unable to submit an initial report by telephone is not required to submit a written followup report.
The “One-Time Automated Written Report”: What is it?

The one-time automated written report is available to mandated reporters with they can’t reach the reporting agency. One must first make reasonable efforts to make contact; once deemed unable to submit an initial report by telephone, he or she shall immediately or as soon as is practicably possible, by fax or electronic transmission, make a one-time automated written report.

The one-time automated written report form shall be clearly identifiable so that it is not mistaken for a standard written followup report. In addition, the automated one-time report shall contain a section that allows the mandated reporter to state the reason the initial telephone call was not able to be completed. The reason for the submission of the one-time automated written report in lieu of the procedure prescribed in subdivision (a) shall be captured in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS). The department shall work with stakeholders to modify reporting forms and the CWS/CMS as is necessary to accommodate the changes enacted by these provisions.
Can I tell my priest? Part I

A clergy member who acquires knowledge or a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect during a penitential communication is not subject to the reporting mandate under certain circumstances as listed herein. "Penitential communication" means a communication, intended to be in confidence, including, but not limited to, a sacramental confession, made to a clergy member who, in the course of the discipline or practice of his or her church, denomination, or organization, is authorized or accustomed to hear those communications.

Nothing shall be construed to modify or limit a clergy member's duty to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect when the clergy member is acting in some other capacity that would otherwise make the clergy member a mandated reporter.
Can I tell my priest?  Part II

On or before January 1, 2004, a clergy member or any custodian of records for the clergy member may report to an agency that the clergy member or any custodian of records for the clergy member, prior to January 1, 1997, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, other than during a penitential communication, acquired knowledge or had a reasonable suspicion that a child had been the victim of sexual abuse that the clergy member or any custodian of records for the clergy member did not previously report the abuse.

This shall apply even if the victim of the known or suspected abuse has reached the age of majority by the time the required report is made. The local law enforcement agency shall have jurisdiction to investigate any report of child abuse made pursuant to this paragraph even if the report is made after the victim has reached the age of majority.
What about my photographs?

Any commercial film, photographic print, or image processor who has knowledge of or observes, within the scope of his or her professional capacity or employment, any film, photograph, videotape, negative, slide, or any representation of information, data, or an image, including, but not limited to, any film, filmstrip, photograph, negative, slide, photocopy, videotape, video laser disc, computer hardware, computer software, computer floppy disk, data storage medium, CD-ROM, computer-generated equipment, or computer-generated image depicting a child under 16 years of age engaged in an act of sexual conduct, shall immediately, or as soon as practically possible, telephonically report the instance of suspected abuse to the law enforcement agency located in the county in which the images are seen. Within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident, the reporter shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written followup report of the incident with a copy of the image or material attached.
What about my MacBook Pro?

Any commercial computer technician who has knowledge of or observes, within the scope of his or her professional capacity or employment, any representation of information, data, or an image, including, but not limited, to any computer hardware, computer software, computer file, computer floppy disk, data storage medium, CD-ROM, computer-generated equipment, or computer-generated image that is retrievable in perceivable form and that is intentionally saved, transmitted, or organized on an electronic medium, depicting a child under 16 years of age engaged in an act of sexual conduct, shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, telephonically report the instance of suspected abuse to the law enforcement agency located in the county in which the images or material are seen. As soon as practicably possible after receiving the information concerning the incident, the reporter shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written followup report of the incident with a brief description of the images or materials.

As used in this subdivision, "electronic medium" includes, but is not limited to, a recording, CD-ROM, magnetic disk memory, magnetic tape memory, CD, DVD, thumbdrive, or any other computer hardware or media.
Any mandated reporter who knows or reasonably suspects that the home or institution in which a child resides is unsuitable for the child because of abuse or neglect of the child shall bring the condition to the attention of the agency to which, and at the same time as, he or she makes a report of the abuse or neglect.

“Any other person” who has knowledge of or observes a child whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been a victim of child abuse or neglect may report the known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect to a reporting agency. "Any other person" includes a mandated reporter who acts in his or her private capacity and not in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment.

Reporting the information regarding a case of possible child abuse or neglect to an employer, supervisor, school principal, school counselor, coworker, or other person shall not be a substitute for making a mandated report to an agency specified in CANRA.
When it is determined by a mandated reporter there exists a risk to a child which relates solely to the inability of the parent(s) to provide the child with regular care due to the parent's substance abuse, a report shall be made only to the county welfare or probation department. The county probation or welfare department also shall send, fax, or electronically transmit a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident to any agency to which it makes a telephone report of suspected child abuse.
When two or more persons, who are required to report, jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, and when there is agreement among them, the telephone report may be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement and a single report may be made and signed by the selected member of the reporting team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter make the report.

The reporting duties under this section are individual, and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit the reporting duties, and no person making a report shall be subject to any sanction for making the report. However, internal procedures to facilitate reporting and apprise supervisors and administrators of reports may be established provided that they are not inconsistent with this article.

The internal procedures shall not require any employee required to make reports pursuant to this article to disclose his or her identity to the employer.
And if I don’t report?

Any mandated reporter who fails to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months confinement in a county jail or by a fine of one thousand dollars ($1,000) or by both, imprisonment and fine. If a mandated reporter intentionally conceals his or her failure to report an incident known by the mandated reporter to be abuse or severe neglect under this section, the failure to report is a continuing offense until a reporting agency discovers the offense.

Any mandated reporter who willfully fails to report abuse or neglect, or any person who impedes or inhibits a report of abuse or neglect, where that abuse or neglect results in death or great bodily injury, shall be punished by not more than one year in a county jail, by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars ($5,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

Any supervisor or administrator who impedes mandated reporting of child abuse shall be punished by not more than six months in a county jail, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars ($1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.
I was once accused, but it was unsubstantiated. Am I on some kind of a list for just being accused?

The Department of Justice is the repository of reports of suspected child abuse and severe neglect to be maintained in the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI).

Current information from an inconclusive or unsubstantiated report filed shall be deleted from the Child Abuse Central Index at this time. In prior years, even inconclusive or unsubstantiated reports were held for a 10 year period in the CACI.

Any person listed in the Child Abuse Central Index who has reached 100 years of age shall have his or her listing removed from the Index.
What if I was abused and don’t want any record of this to exist?

If a person is listed in the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) only as a victim of child abuse or neglect, and that person is 18 years of age or older, that person may have his or her name removed from the index by making a written request to the Department of Justice. The request shall be notarized and include the person’s name, address, social security number, and date of birth.
Am I on any abuser list?

Any person may determine if he or she is listed in the Child Abuse Central Index by making a request in writing to the Department of Justice. The request shall be notarized and include the person's name, address, date of birth, and either a social security number or a California identification number. Upon receipt of a notarized request, the Department of Justice shall make available to the requesting person information identifying the date of the report and the submitting agency.
What is “immunity” all about?

No mandated reporter shall be civilly or criminally liable for any report required or authorized, and this immunity shall apply even if the mandated reporter acquired the knowledge or reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect outside of his or her professional capacity or outside the scope of his or her employment.

A mandated reporter following his/her duty to report a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect shall not incur civil or criminal liability as a result of any report unless it can be proven that a false report was made and the person knew that the report was false or was made with reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the report, and any person who makes a report of child abuse or neglect known to be false or with reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the report is liable for any damages caused.
The "immunity," however, situation.

The Legislature finds that even though it has provided immunity from liability to persons required or authorized to make reports, that immunity does not eliminate the possibility that actions may be brought against those persons based upon required or authorized reports. In order to further limit the financial hardship that those persons may incur as a result of fulfilling their legal responsibilities, it is necessary that they not be unfairly burdened by legal fees incurred in defending those actions. Therefore, a mandated reporter may present a claim to the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board for reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in any action against that person on the basis of making a report if the court has dismissed the action upon a demurrer or motion for summary judgment made by that person, or if he or she prevails in the action. The California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board shall allow that claim if the requirements of this subdivision are met, and the claim shall be paid from an appropriation to be made for that purpose. Attorney's fees awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed an hourly rate greater than the rate charged by the Attorney General of the State of California at the time the award is made and shall not exceed an aggregate amount of fifty thousand dollars ($50,000).
The End