

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to assist providers in the process of identifying, treating, and referring suspected victims of child abuse and neglect, providing optimal care to patients and meeting Department of Public Health and JCAHO standards.

## SUPPORTIVE DATA:

The public policy of the State of Connecticut is to protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through injury and neglect; to strengthen the family and to make the home safe for children by enhancing the parental capacity for good child care; to provide a temporary or permanent nurturing and safe environment for children when necessary; and for these purposes to require the reporting of suspected child abuse, investigation of such reports by a social agency, and provision of services, where needed, to such child and family.

## DEFINITIONS:

Suspected child abuse is defined as any child under the age of eighteen, who has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him/her other than by accidental means by a person responsible for his/her health, welfare or care or by a person given access to the child by the responsible person or who has injuries which are at variance with the history given of them, or is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment or has been neglected [Connecticut General Statute 17a – 101(b) and 46b – 120].

Child neglect is defined as any child under eighteen who has been abandoned, or is being denied proper care and attention, physically, emotionally or morally or is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to his well being (Connecticut General Statute 46b – 120).  
Exception: The treatment of any child by an accredited Christian Science practitioner shall not itself constitute neglect or maltreatment (Connecticut General Statute).

Child at Risk is defined as reasonable cause to believe or suspect a child is in danger of being abused as opposed to belief that the abuse has actually occurred. An example would be a child who resides in a violent home or a child whose caretaker is a drug addict (Connecticut General Statute 17a – 102).

## POLICY:

1. Patients under the age of 18 have the right to be free from neglect; exploitation; and verbal, mental, physical and sexual abuse.
2. The hospital will protect these patients from neglect, exploitation, and abuse that could occur while the patient is receiving care, treatment, and services.

3. The hospital will evaluate all allegations, observations, and suspected cases of neglect, exploitation, and abuse of minors.
4. The hospital will report allegations, observations, and suspected cases of neglect, exploitation, and abuse to appropriate authorities based on its evaluation of the suspected events, or as required by law.

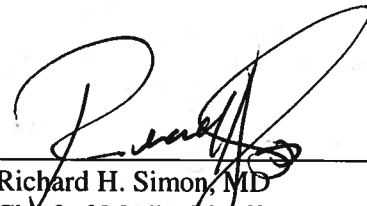
In accordance with the Child Welfare Act, Connecticut General Statutes 17-32 to 52b amended 1983, *Connecticut Acts 43* amended 1988, any case of suspected child abuse, neglect, or at-risk situation must be reported to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The report should be made to the DCF Care Line 24 hours a day 1-800-842-2288 and should be made as soon as practical after the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed in imminent risk of serious harm. Mandated reporters of child abuse are listed in Appendix A.

A physician or facility must report to Department of Children and Families (DCF) on consultation, examination and treatment for venereal disease on any child under age thirteen (Connecticut General Statute 19a-216).

5. During routine business hours, staff should report cases of possible child abuse to the Department of Social Work via Care Coordination x3153. After routine business hours, staff should contact the DCF Care Line directly at 1-800-842-2288.
6. All information pertaining to abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment will be documented in the medical record.
7. Staff/reporter must complete Form 136 (Appendix A), which is available on-line at <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/1-DCF/Reporting-Child-Abuse-and-Neglect>  
- Reporter must complete the form on-line and then print out hard copy, as document changes cannot be saved on-line. Submit completed form to DCF, per directions on the form. A copy of the completed form should also be forwarded to the Child Protection Team Coordinator at MC-2209.



Andrew Agwunobi, MD, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer



Richard H. Simon, MD  
Chief of Medical Staff

Date Issued: 5/12  
Reviewed: 08/14, 04/17, 04/18  
Revised: 04/21

**Appendix A – DCF – Form 136 (2-page form)**

# REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

DCF-136  
05/2015 (Rev.)



**Careline**  
1-800-842-2288

**Within forty-eight hours of making an oral report, a mandated reporter shall submit this form (DCF-136) to the relevant Area Office listed below**  
See the reverse side of this form for a summary of Connecticut law concerning the protection of children.

*Please Print or Type*

Child's Name	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Age Or DOB	Race:	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American (not of Hispanic Origin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> White (not of Hispanic origin) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Child's Address					
Name Of Parents Or Other Person Responsible For Child's Care		Address		Phone Number	
Name Of Careline Worker To Whom Oral Report Was Made		Date Of Oral Report	Date And Time Of Suspected Abuse/Neglect		
Name Of Suspected Perpetrator, If Known		Address And Phone Number, If Known		Relationship To Child	
Nature And Extent Of Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect					
Describe The Circumstances Under Which The Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Came To Be Known					
Describe the Reasons Such Persons(s) Are Suspected of Causing Such Injuries, Maltreatment of Neglect					
Information Concerning Any Previous Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Of The Child Or His/Her Siblings					
Information Concerning Any Prior Cases(s) In Which The Person(s) Have Been Suspected Of Causing An Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Of A Child					
List Names And Ages Of Siblings, If Known					
What Action, If Any, Has Been Taken To Treat, Provide Shelter Or Otherwise Assist The Child?					

### REPORTER SECTION

Reporter's Name:	<b>Reporter's Race</b> <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American (not of Hispanic Origin) <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic (any race) <input type="checkbox"/> White (not of Hispanic origin) <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer Not to Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Agency Name:		
Phone Number:		
Agency Address:		
City:		
Reporter's Signature	Position	Date

**WHITE COPY: TO DCF AREA OFFICE (see below)**

**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE, YOU MAY ATTACH MORE DOCUMENTATION**

<b>Bridgeport</b> 100 Fairfield Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604 203-384-5300 TDD: 203-384-5399 Fax: 203-384-5306	<b>Danbury</b> 131 West Street Danbury, CT 06810 203-207-5100 TDD: 203-748-8325 Fax: 203-207-5169	<b>Hartford</b> 250 Hamilton Street Hartford, CT 06106 860-418-8000 TDD: 800-315-4082 Fax: 860-418-8325	<b>Manchester</b> 364 West Middle Turnpike Manchester, CT 06040 860-533-3600 TDD: 800-315-4415 Fax: 860-533-3734	<b>Norwalk</b> 761 Main Avenue, I-Park Complex Norwalk, CT 06851 203-899-1400 TDD: 203-899-1491 Fax: 203-899-1463, 203-899-1464
<b>Meriden</b> One West Main Street Meriden CT 06451 203-238-8400 TDD: 203-238-8517 Fax: 203-238-8425	<b>Middletown</b> 2081 South Main Street Middletown, CT 06457 860-638-2100 TDD: 860-638-2195 Fax: 860-348-0098	<b>Milford</b> 38 Wellington Road Milford, CT 06461 203-306-5300 TDD: 203-306-5604 Fax: 203-306-5606	<b>New Britain</b> One Grove Street, 4th Floor New Britain, CT 06053 860-832-5200 TDD: 860-832-5370 Fax: 860-832-5491	<b>New Haven</b> One Long Wharf Drive New Haven, CT 06511 203-786-0500 TDD: 203-786-2599 Fax: 203-786-0660
<b>Norwich</b> Two Courthouse Square Norwich, CT 06360 860-886-2641 TDD: 860-885-2438 Fax: 860-887-3683	<b>Torrington</b> 62 Commercial Blvd Torrington, CT 06790 860-496-5700 TDD: 860-496-5798 Fax: 860-496-5834	<b>Waterbury</b> 395 West Main Street Waterbury, CT 06702 203-759-7000 TDD: 203-465-7329 Fax: 203-759-7295	<b>Willimantic</b> 322 Main Street Willimantic, CT 06226 860-450-2000 TDD: 860-456-6603 Fax: 860-450-1051	<b>Special Investigations Unit</b> 505 Hudson Street, 7th Floor Hartford, CT 06106 860-550-6696 FAX: 860-723-7237

## SUMMARY OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING CHILD ABUSE/ NEGLECT

### PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT (C.G.S. §17a-101)

To protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through injury and neglect; to strengthen the family and to make the home safe for children by enhancing the parental capacity for good child care; to provide a temporary or permanent nurturing and safe environment for children when necessary; and for these purposes to require the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect, investigation of such reports by a social agency, and provision of services, where needed, to such child and family.

### WHO IS MANDATED TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT?

Child Advocate and OCA Employees	Mental Health Professionals
Chiropractors	Optometrists
Coaches and Directors of a Private Youth Sports, Organization or Team	Persons Paid to Care for Children
Coaches and Athletic Directors of Youth Athletics	Persons who Provide Services to and have Regular Contact with Students
Dental Hygienists	Pharmacists
Dentists	Physical Therapists
Department of Children and Families Employees	Physician Assistants
Domestic Violence Counselors	Podiatrists
Office of Early Childhood Employees and Department of Public Health Employees who are Responsible for Licensing Day Cares and Camps	Police Officers
Family Relations Counselors (Judicial Dept.)	Probation Officers (Juvenile or Adult)
Family Rel. Counselor Trainees (Judicial Dept.)	Psychologists
Family Services Supervisors (Judicial Dept.)	Public or Private Institution of Higher Education Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Athletic Directors, Athletic Coaches and Athletic Trainers
Licensed Foster Parents	Registered Nurses
Licensed Marital and Family Therapists	School Administrators
Licensed or Unlicensed Interns at Any Hospital	School Coaches
Licensed or Unlicensed Resident Physicians	School Guidance Counselors
Licensed Physicians	School Paraprofessionals
Licensed Practical Nurses	School Superintendents
Licensed Professional Counselors	School Teachers
Licensed Surgeons	Sexual Assault Counselors
Licensed/Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors	Social Workers
Licensed/Certified Emergency Medical Services Providers	Substitute Teachers
Medical Examiners	
Members of the Clergy	

### DO THOSE MANDATED TO REPORT INCUR LIABILITY?

**No.** Any person, institution or agency which, in good faith, makes or does not make a report, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability provided such person did not perpetrate or cause such abuse or neglect.

### IS THERE A PENALTY FOR NOT REPORTING?

**Yes.** Any person required to report who fails to do so may be prosecuted for a Class A misdemeanor and may be required to participate in an educational and training program. Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with or prevents a report may be prosecuted for a Class D felony.

### IS THERE A PENALTY FOR MAKING A FALSE REPORT?

**Yes.** Any person who knowingly makes a false report of child abuse or neglect may be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year or both. The identity of such person shall be disclosed to the appropriate law enforcement agency and to the alleged perpetrator of the abuse.

### WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

- An oral report shall be made by a mandated reporter by telephone or in person to the DCF Careline or to a law enforcement agency as soon as practicable, but not later than 12 hours after the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed in imminent risk of serious harm. If a law enforcement agency receives an oral report, it shall immediately notify Careline. Oral reports to the Careline shall be recorded.
- Within 48 hours of making an oral report, a mandated reporter shall submit a written report to the DCF Careline on the DCF-136, "Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect."
- When a mandated reporter is a member of the staff of a public or private institution or facility that provides care for children or a public or private school, the reporter shall also submit a copy of the written report to the person in charge of such institution, school or facility or the person's designee.

**DCF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CARELINE: 1-800-842-2288**

**STATUTORY REFERENCES: C.G.S. 17a-28, §17a-101 et seq.; §46b-120**

## DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

**Abused Child:** Any child who has a non-accidental physical injury, or injuries which are at variance with the history given of such injuries, or is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment.

**Neglected Child:** Any child who has been abandoned or is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally or is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to his or her well-being.

**Exception:** The treatment of any child by an accredited Christian Science practitioner shall not by itself constitute neglect or maltreatment.

**CHILD UNDER AGE 13 WITH VENEREAL DISEASE:** A physician or facility must report to Careline upon the consultation, examination or treatment for venereal disease of any child who has not reached his or her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### DO PRIVATE CITIZENS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING?

**Yes.** Any person having reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of 18 is in danger of being abused or has been abused or neglected may cause a written or oral report to be made to the Careline or a law enforcement agency. Any person making the report in good faith is immune from any liability, civil or criminal. However, the person is subject to the penalty for making a false claim.

### WHAT IS THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (DCF)?

All child protective services in Connecticut are the responsibility of the Department of Children and Families.

Upon the receipt of a report of child abuse or neglect, the Careline shall cause the report to be classified, evaluated immediately and forwarded to the appropriate Area Office for the commencement of an investigation or for the provision of services within timelines specified by statute and policy.

If an investigation produces evidence of child abuse or neglect, DCF shall take such measures as it deems necessary to protect the child, and any other children similarly situated, including, but not limited to, immediate notification to the appropriate law enforcement agency, and the removal of the child from his or her home with or without the parents' consent consistent with state law.

If DCF has probable cause to believe that the child or any other child in the household is at imminent risk of physical harm from the surroundings, and that immediate removal from such surroundings is necessary to ensure the child's safety, the Commissioner or designee shall authorize any employee of DCF or any law enforcement officer to remove the child and any other child similarly situated from such surroundings without the consent of the child's parent or guardian. The removal of a child shall not exceed 96 hours. If the child is not returned home within such 96-hour period, with or without protective services, DCF shall file a motion for temporary custody with the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters.

### WHAT MEANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REMOVING A CHILD FROM HIS OR HER HOME?

- 96-Hour hold by the Commissioner of DCF or designee (see above).
- 96-Hour hold by a physician – Any physician examining a child with respect to whom abuse or neglect is suspected shall have the right to keep such child in the custody of a hospital for no longer than 96 hours in order to perform diagnostic tests and procedures necessary to the detection of child abuse or neglect and to provide necessary medical care with or without the consent of such child's parents or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care, provided the physician has made reasonable attempts to (1) advise such child's parents or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care that the physician suspects the child has been abused or neglected, and (2) obtain consent of such child's parents or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care. In addition, such physician may take or cause to be taken photographs of the area of trauma visible on a child who is the subject of such report without the consent of such child's parent's or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care. All such photographs or copies thereof shall be sent to the local police department and the Department of Children and Families.
- Bench order of temporary custody – Whenever any person is arrested and charged with an offense under Section 53-20 or 53-21 or under Part V, VI, or VII of Chapter 952, as amended, the victim of which offense was a minor residing with the defendant, any judge of the Superior Court may, if it appears that the child's condition or circumstances surrounding the case so require, issue an order to the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families to assume immediate custody of such child and, if the circumstances so require, any other children residing with the defendant and to proceed thereon as in other cases.

### WHAT IS THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

The Department of Children and Families maintains a registry of persons who have been substantiated as responsible for child abuse or neglect and pose a risk to the health safety or well-being of children. The Central Registry is available on a 24-hour daily basis to prevent or discover child abuse of children.