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

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.)

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.

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

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<tr>
<th>Reporter's Name:</th>
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<td>Agency Name:</td>
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<td>Phone Number:</td>
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<td>Agency Address:</td>
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<td>Reporter's Signature</td>
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<td>Position</td>
<td>Date</td>
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</tbody>
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**WHITE COPY: TO DCF AREA OFFICE (see below)**

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

**Bridgeport**: 100 Fairfield Avenue, DCF Area Office, CT 06604
  203-369-5000
  TDD: 203-369-5099
  Fax: 203-384-8306

**Norwich**: Two Courthouse Square, Norwich, CT 06360
  860-856-2541
  TDD: 860-856-2433
  Fax: 860-856-3093

**Danbury**: 131 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810
  203-207-5100
  TDD: 203-207-5199
  Fax: 203-207-5199

**Middletown**: 228 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457
  860-638-2100
  TDD: 860-638-2195
  Fax: 860-345-0926

**Milford**: 38 Wellington Road, Milford, CT 06460
  203-309-5300
  TDD: 203-309-5000
  Fax: 203-309-5000

**Waterbury**: 398 West Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
  203-759-7000
  TDD: 203-406-7050
  Fax: 203-759-7050

**Manchester**: 384 West Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040
  860-533-3900
  TDD: 860-533-3900
  Fax: 860-533-3900

**New Britain**: One Grove Street, 4th Floor
  New Britain, CT 06053
  860-832-2000
  TDD: 860-832-2000
  Fax: 860-832-2000

**Willimantic**: 322 Main Street
  Willimantic, CT 06226
  860-456-5600
  TDD: 860-456-5600
  Fax: 860-456-5600

**Norwalk**: 450 Washington St., Norwalk, CT 06851
  203-854-1400
  TDD: 203-854-1414
  Fax: 203-854-1414

**New Haven**: One Long Wharf Drive
  New Haven, CT 06511
  203-786-8500
  TDD: 203-786-8500
  Fax: 203-786-8500

---

**Caroline**

1-800-842-2288
SUMMARY OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLIGENCE

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/NEGLIGENCE?
Child Advocates and OCA Employees
Chiropractors
Coaches and Directors of a Private Youth Sports, Organization or Team
Coaches and Athletic Directors of Youth Athletics
Dental Hygienists
Dentists
Department of Children and Families Employees
Domestic Violence Counselors
Office of Early Childhood Employees and Department of Public Health Employees who are Responsible for Licensing Day Care and Camps
Family Relations Counselors (Judicial Dept.)
Family Rel. Counselor Trainees (Judicial Dept.)
Family Services Supervisors (Judicial Dept.)
Licensed Foster Parents
Licensed Marital and Family Therapists
Licensed or Unlicensed Interns at Any Hospital
Licensed or Unlicensed Resident Physicians
Licensed Physicians
Licensed Practical Nurses
Licensed Professional Counselors
Licensed Surgeons
Licensed/Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors
Licensed/Certified Emergency Medical Services Providers
Medical Examiners
Members of the Clergy
Mental Health Professionals
Optometrists
Persons Paid to Care for Children
Persons who Provide Services to and have Regular Contact with Students
Pharmacists
Physical Therapists
Physician Assistants
Podiatrists
Police Officers
Probation Officers (Juvenile or Adult)
Psychologists
Public or Private Institution of Higher Education Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Athletic Directors, Athletic Coaches and Athletic Trainers
Registered Nurses
School Administrators
School Coaches
School Guidance Counselors
School Paraprofessionals
School Superintendents
School Teachers
Sexual Assault Counselors
Social Workers
Substitute Teachers
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 VIEKEREAL DISEASE: A physician or facility must report to Careline upon the consultation, examination or treatment for varicella disease of any child who has not reached his or her 13th 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 53a-31 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.