



Act 31 Mandated Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting 2025

Presented by
Debra Schilling Wolfe, M.Ed.

Overview

This training fulfills the requirements for mental health professionals to obtain 2-3 hours of PA Dept. of Human Services (DHS) and professional board-approved Continuing Education on current Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting. Professionals will learn the role and responsibilities of Mandated Reporters to include time frames.

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

- Define definitions and categories of child abuse as outlined in the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law
- Identify common indicators of suspected child abuse
- Identify roles and responsibilities of those mandated to report suspected child abuse
- List responsibilities and procedures for reporting suspected child abuse
- Identify penalties for mandated reporters who willfully fail to report suspected child abuse

Child Welfare in Pennsylvania (1:29)

Child Protective Services (CPS) and General Protective Services (GPS)

Definitions and categories of child abuse and perpetrators as outlined in the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law (CPSL)

Common indicators of suspected child abuse

Mandatory notification of substance abuse infants
Exclusions from child abuse

Roles and responsibilities of those mandated to report suspected child abuse (1:28)

Requirements and procedures for reporting suspected child abuse

Confidentiality and privilege

Protections of and penalties for mandated reporters who willfully fail to report suspected child abuse

Applying learning to practice

Debra Schilling Wolfe is the founding Executive Director of the University of Pennsylvania’s Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research, a multidisciplinary center focused on child welfare systemic reform. The research and testimony of Debra and her colleagues have influenced change in child welfare policy and laws on local and national levels.

Debra’s clinical background includes child and family therapy and supervision, specifically with child abuse cases. Her publications include *Revisiting Child Abuse Reporting Laws*, and *Social Policy, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Forensic Psychiatry*.

Debra has held leadership roles in the child welfare arena for over 30 years and directed innovative child welfare programs nationally, including the New York Foundling Hospital’s Crisis Nursery and Boston City Hospital’s Sexual Abuse Team.

3 CE Hours for Psychologists Counselors Social Workers MFT

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ACCREDITATION

Practice Level –Intermediate



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