



# *Act 31 Mandated Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting 2023*

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:**

- Describe differences between Child Protective Services and General Protective Services
- Describe relevant definitions including: child, perpetrator, acts or failures to act, categories of child abuse, and exclusions to child abuse
- Describe provisions and responsibilities for reporting suspected child abuse
- Describe indicators for the recognition of child abuse

## **Description of Child Welfare in PA**

### **Child Protective Services (CPS)**

### **General Protective Services (GPS)**

- Description/differentiation of the two types
- Criteria for a report being CPS vs. GPS
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### **Descriptions that Must be Covered**

- Components of Child Abuse
- All Categories of Child Abuse
- Exclusions of Child Abuse

## **Provisions and Responsibilities for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse**

- Permissive Reporters
- Mandated Reporters
- Reporting Process
- Protections for Reporters
- Penalties for Failure to Report
- Mandated Reporters Right-to-Know
- Recognition/Indicators of Child Abuse

## **Definitions and Recognition of Human Trafficking**

**Debra Schilling Wolfe, M.Ed.** 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 Cit Hospital's Sexual Abuse Team

**3 CE Hours for Psychologists Counselors Social Workers MFT**

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