HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: CALIFORNIA

DISCLOSURE TIPS

WHAT DO YOU SAY?
- An adult's reaction to disclosure plays an important role in the beginning of the healing process for the child.
- "I'm really glad that you told me."
- "It took a lot of courage to tell me."
- "It's not your fault."
- "We will work together to get you help."
- "I will need to tell some other people who help to protect children."

WHAT ARE THE CHILD'S NEEDS?
- Be careful not to make promises that you cannot keep. Do not promise you will not tell anyone.
- Report immediately.
- Only speak to those who have to know – confidentially.
- Gentle honesty – keep information age-appropriate and general.

INFORMATION NEEDED

WHO: Who was involved?

WHAT: What occurred?

WHEN: When did it occur?

WHERE: Where did it occur?

MAKE A REPORT

California law requires all school personnel with reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect to make a report.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call 911. Otherwise, mandated reporters must contact an appropriate local law enforcement or county child welfare agency, listed below. This legal obligation is not satisfied by making a report of the incident to a supervisor or to the school. An appropriate law enforcement agency may be one of the following:

- A Police or Sheriff's Department (not including a school district police department or school security department).
- A County Probation Department, if designated by the county to receive child abuse reports.
- A County Welfare Department/County Child Protective Services.

The report should be made immediately over the telephone and should be followed up in writing. The law enforcement agency has special forms for this purpose that they will ask you to complete.

Find a list of California County Emergency Response Child Abuse Reporting Telephone Numbers here: http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Reporting/Report-Abuse/Child-Protective-Services/Report-Child-Abuse
Access free online Mandated Reporter training here: https://mandatedreporterca.com/