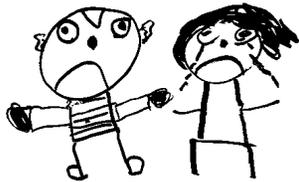


How to Report a Child Abuse Case

- As a child care provider, it is your responsibility to report suspected child abuse immediately!
- Make a report through the local child protective services agency: 1-800-540-4000 (DCFS) in Los Angeles or 714-940-1000 (CPS) in Orange County. Call local law enforcement in the event of a life threatening emergency.
- Remember that you as a child care provider are a mandated reporter of suspected child abuse/neglect.
- Reporting child abuse to the local authorities may be a difficult decision to make but failure to report child abuse can have serious consequences. It is your duty under the law and a child's well-being is at stake.



Resources

Los Angeles Area

- ◆ **Korean American Family Service Center**
Provides crisis intervention, professional counseling for adults and children, domestic violence prevention programs, and bridging to shelter and legal services. Information and support in Korean/English.
Tel: 1-213-389-6755
24 Hour Hotline 1-888-979-3800
Website: www.kafscla.org
- ◆ **LA County Dept. of Child and Family Services**
Investigates child abuse and neglect
Tel: 1-800-540-4000
TTY: 1-800-272-6699 (24 hours)

Orange County Area

- ◆ **Korean Community Services**
Provides professional counseling and domestic violence prevention classes for Asian Pacific communities of Orange County.
Tel: 1-714-449-1125
Website: www.koreancommunity.org
- ◆ **Orange County Domestic Violence Hotline**
Counselors and appropriate shelters are available in 11 languages.
24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-978-3600
- ◆ **Orange County Child Protective Services**
Investigates child abuse and neglect.
Tel: 1-714-940-1000
24 Hour Hotline 1-800-207-4464

Nation Wide

- ◆ **National Domestic Violence Hotline**
Provides crisis intervention, victim support, and referrals to local services providers (including shelters) in different languages.
Tel: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
TTY: 1-800-787-3224



Office for Victims of Crime
OVC
"Putting Victims First"

This product was produced by Korean American Family Service Center under 2010-VF-GX-K023 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position nor policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



Understanding Family Violence And Children

A Guide for Childcare Providers
and Early Childhood Centers

Korean American Family Service Center
3727 W 6th Street, Suite 320, LA, CA 90020
Tel.213-389-6755 Fax.213-389-5172 www.kafscla.org

Children Exposed to Family Violence



It is estimated that 1 in 5 children in the U.S. will experience family violence. Among them, young children under age five are the most likely to experience family violence.

Children living with family violence are more likely to develop serious social, emotional, psychological or behavioral problems, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, low self-esteem, and lowered school performance. It is important for caregivers of young children to understand what family violence is, its impact on children, and how they can support affected children to promote their safety and wellness.

Family Violence

Family violence can include child abuse and domestic violence. Child abuse is the mistreatment or neglect of children. Domestic violence is abusive behavior within an intimate relationship.

Family violence can take many forms:

- **Physical:** hitting, kicking, throwing objects
- **Verbal:** name-calling, shaming, cursing, put-downs, threats
- **Sexual:** forcing sex or demanding sexual acts on an unwilling partner or a child
- **Controlling behavior:** unreasonable and overly restrictive demands, isolation from friends and family, economic control (domestic violence only)
- **Neglect:** failure to provide adequately for child's physical, emotional or other basic needs (child abuse only)

Family violence affects every member of the family. Even witnessing domestic violence can have serious consequences for the child's emotional health and development and may be considered a form of child abuse itself.

What to Do When You Suspect a Child is Exposed to Family Violence

Common Symptoms:

- **Behavior:** Agitation, anxiety, fearfulness, either unusual extroversion or introversion, increased aggression and/or anger, regression of social skills.
- **Academic:** Trouble concentrating, poor performance, inability to focus on schoolwork, lack of motivation and interest, lack of participation, expression of disturbing and/or violent events through schoolwork (essays, pictures, etc.)
- **Physical:** Suspicious bruising or markings, suspicious injuries followed by hesitation or fearfulness in discussing how injuries were sustained, stomach pain or headaches.

The best source of information is not what the child says but how the child behaves. Be alert and responsive to the child behaviors described above.

What to Ask

Every effort should be made to provide the child with a safe, protected environment, away from suspected abusers, before any attempt is made to talk to the child.

- Would you like to talk about what happened?
- Is anyone harming you?
- Do you want it to stop?
- What do you want to do? What would you like to have happen?
- Is anyone else being hurt?



Steps You Can Take If You Suspect Child Abuse

- Allow the child to talk about, draw, write, or play about the scary events that may be troubling him/her. Do not immediately reprimand for inappropriate behavior as this may cause the child to withdraw further.
- Reassure the child that s/he is in a safe place and what is shared will not be used to harm him/her or loved ones.
- Do not react with visible anger or alarm at what the child reveals. Rather, be encouraging and stay calm.
- Monitor the child's behavior closely and react sensitively to changes in behavior. Punishing or reprimanding children for sudden bad behavior may prevent the child from opening up and discussing the real reason behind the behavioral changes.
- If abuse is suspected, it is your responsibility to report to local authorities and allow the child and the family to get professional help. Children affected by violence in the home should be evaluated and treated by a trained professional.
- Be careful about contacting the parent or the suspected abuser directly. This could make the situation worse for the child.