

Mayor's Commission for Children Mtg Minutes

Zoom January 12th, 2021 8 am

Commission members present: Dr. Elizabeth Andrews, Amy Chenoweth, Chris Jarratt, Christy Davis, Linda Saturno, Susie Henderson, Monica Horton

Commission members absent Jennifer McClure, Brandy Harris

Advisory Council Present: Gerry Lee, John Chastain, Dr. Tamara Fusco, Dr. Doug McNeal. Dr. Jennifer Baker, Jan Fisk, Carol Wooten, Mike White

Dr. Andrews opened up the meeting by welcoming our presenter Micki Lane from Child Advocacy Center. Micki trained all in attendance the Mandated Reporting Training that is done annually. **She encouraged all of us to put the hotline number in our contacts in our phone so we can readily use if necessary.**

MISSOURI's 24-HOUR CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE

(800) 392-3738 or online @ <https://dss.mo.gov/>

Who is a Mandated Reporter?

- ◆ Missouri Statute §210.115
- ◆ Physician, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, resident, intern, nurse, hospital or clinic personnel engaged in the examination, care, treatment or research of persons, or any other health practitioner
- ◆ Psychologist, mental health professional, social worker, day care center worker, or other child care worker;
- ◆ Juvenile officer, probation or parole officer, jail or detention center personnel;
- ◆ Teacher, principal, or other school official;
- ◆ Minister as defined by statute, “[A]ny person while practicing as a minister of the gospel, clergyperson, priest, rabbi, Christian Science practitioner, or other person serving in a similar capacity for any religious organization who is responsible for or who has supervisory authority over one who is responsible for the care, custody, and control of a child or has access to a child”
- ◆ Peace officer, or law enforcement official,
- ◆ Volunteer or personnel of a community service program that offers support services for families in crisis to assist in the delegation of any powers regarding the care and custody of a child by a properly executed power of attorney pursuant to sections 475.600 to 475.604
- ◆ OTHER PERSON with the RESPONSIBILITY for the care of CHILDREN.

When must a report be made?

- ◆ “All mandatory reporters shall, upon finding reasonable cause, directly and immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect”

- ◆ Medical Institution Exception
“If two or more members of a medical institution who are required to report jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, a single report may be made by a designated member of that medical team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter immediately make the report.”

What if I am told not to make the report

No person making a report under section 210.115 shall be subject to any sanction, including any adverse employment action, for making such report

- ◆ No supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit any reporting
- ◆ No internal investigation shall be initiated until such a report has been made

What information should I report?

- ◆ When calling you will be asked for a lot of questions. Including but not limited to:
 - ◆ The names and addresses of the child and their parents or other persons responsible for their care;
 - ◆ The child’s age, sex and race;
 - ◆ The nature and extent of the child’s injuries, abuse or neglect, including any evidence of previous injuries, abuse or neglect to child or his siblings;
 - ◆ The name, age, and address of the person responsible for the injuries, abuse or neglect, if known;
 - ◆ Any prior concerns that were reported or not

What is Abuse and Neglect?

- ◆ Missouri Statute §210.110(1):
 - “**ABUSE**” – “any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child’s care, custody and control,” EXCEPT:
 - “Discipline including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be construed to be abuse.”
- ◆ Abuse is not limited to abuse inflicted by a person responsible for the child’s care, custody and control.
- ◆ Missouri Statute §210.110(9):
 - “**NEGLECT**” – “failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child’s well being.

What liability do I have as a mandated reporter?

- ◆ Missouri Statute §210.135

- “In the making of a report” mandated reporters “shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal”
- Immunity lost only in cases of intentional false reports, bad faith or ill intent.
- Criminal liability for a false report only occurs when the false report is made intentionally (Missouri Statute Section 210.165).

What if I don't report?

Missouri Statute §210.165

- ♦ Violation of the Mandatory Reporting Statute is a Class A Misdemeanor:
 - Up to one (1) year in the County Jail; and
 - Up to a \$1,000.00 fine.

The meeting/training adjourned at 9:30 am. A version of this information will be posted on the Mayor's Commission for Children webpage at the City website.