

Breaking the Silence – Child Abuse Awareness Training

Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Practice Activity

Practice **prior** to a situation happening helps people respond appropriately and effectively when the situation actually occurs. This exercise is designed to give you an opportunity to practice completing a *Suspected Child Abuse Report* using a real-life inspired scenario. We hope you will never need to complete this form, but just in case...

Directions:

Use one of the scenarios below along with the fictitious, Mock Emergency Information Card included with this exercise to complete the *Suspected Child Abuse Report*. Please create an age appropriate birth date and grade level for the child for whom you are reporting. As in real life, you may not have access to all the information requested. The instructions page of the *Suspected Child Abuse Report* says, “A mandated reporter must complete and submit the Suspected Child Abuse Report (form SS 8572) even if some of the requested information is not known.” Complete this form to the best of your ability and knowledge; just as you would if the scenario were real. Please note any questions or problems you may encounter while completing the *Suspected Child Abuse Report*.

Preschool

While playing with dolls, Karla M. Patterson, a 3 year-old, has been removing their clothes and posing them in sexually explicit positions. When you gently inquire about the dolls, Karla says that she is playing house like daddy does with his friend.

You’ve heard Karla talk about her older brother and sister, but do not know their ages or names. You know that Karla lives with her father who is divorced from her mother, but do not know where the siblings live. You also know that she is not a special needs child.

When you reported this incident to the LA County Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS), you were given the following information:

Case Name: Patterson Report

Case Number: 555-555-xxxxxxx

Agency: LA County Department of Children & Family Services (CDFS)

Address: 3075 Wilshire Blvd. – 5th Floor, LA, CA 90010 (*actual address*)

Phone Number: 1-800-540-4000 (*actual phone number*)

Official Contacted: Beatrice Wright

Elementary School

After a lesson about appropriate and inappropriate touching, one of your students, Karla M. Patterson, tells you that her uncle is touching her private parts. She wants you to make him stop.

You’ve heard Karla talk about her older brother, Vic, and sister, Darnise, but do not know their ages. You know that Karla lives with her father who is divorced from her mother, but do not know where the siblings live. You also know that she is physically disabled.

When you called your Local Law Enforcement Agency, you were given the following information:

Case Name: Patterson Report

Case Number: 555-555-xxxxxxx

Official Contacted: Officer Bryan Wright

For this exercise, use the actual name, address, and phone number of the law enforcement agency to which you would report should you ever need to report suspected child abuse.

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Middle School

When you arrive at work in the morning, you find an envelope addressed to you on the floor. It obviously had been slid under your door. It contains pictures of Karla M. Patterson, one of your students, sitting on the lap of Mr. Jones, the Assistant Principal.

You've heard Karla talk about her younger brother and sister, but do not know their ages or names. You know that Karla lives with her father who is divorced from her mother, but do not know where the siblings live. You also know that she is not a special needs child.

When you reported this incident to the LA County Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS), you were given the following information:

Case Name: Patterson Report

Case Number: 555-555-xxxxxxx

Agency: LA County Department of Children & Family Services (CDFS)

Address: 3075 Wilshire Blvd. – 5th Floor, LA, CA 90010 (*actual address*)

Phone Number: 1-800-540-4000 (*actual phone number*)

Official Contacted: Beatrice Wright

High School

Karla M. Patterson, your student, tells you that she is having a sexual affair with Ms. Hardy, a teacher at your school. You know that Ms. Hardy has an upstanding work record and is known to be very vigilant in enforcing the rules. You are also aware that Karla has a poor discipline record and a history of fabrication.

You've heard Karla talk about her younger brother and sister, but do not know their ages or names. You know that Karla lives with her father who is divorced from her mother, but do not know where the siblings live. You also know that she is not a special needs child.

When you called your Local Law Enforcement Agency, you were given the following information:

Case Name: Patterson Report

Case Number: 555-555-xxxxxxx

Official Contacted: Officer Bryan Wright

For this exercise, use the actual name, address, and phone number of the law enforcement agency to which you would report should you ever need to report suspected child abuse.

Wrapping it up:

Your facilitator will field a few questions or concerns you had while completing the *Suspected Child Abuse Report*. If he or she is unable to answer your question(s) to your satisfaction, please see your administrator for further clarification.

Word of caution:

If you do not know specific information (like sibling names), do **NOT** contact anyone or investigate to obtain the information. Doing so may put others in danger and/or influence any official investigation. Complete what you can, and then submit.

You may **NOT** report suspected child abuse to the Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD). You must report to a Local Law Enforcement Agency (i.e., LAPD, the Sheriff's Department, a city's police department) or to the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS).

Please look on front of page for directions and scenarios for preschool and elementary school.