

**Chattahoochee County  
School District  
Protocol for Reporting  
Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Mandated Reporter Training  
SY20-21**

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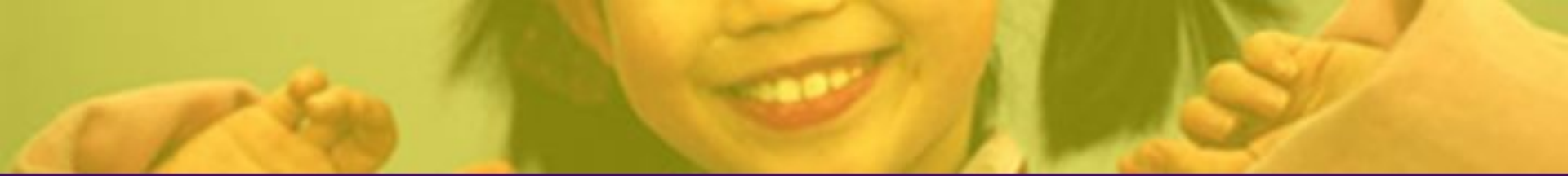
# Goals

- 1. Discuss importance of protecting children**
- 2. Provide definition of Child Abuse and Neglect**
- 3. Identify types of abuse and neglect**
- 4. Share who is responsible for reporting child abuse and neglect**
- 5. Explain how school employees report child abuse and neglect**



# Why Protect Children?

- **Parents have the primary responsibility for children under the age of 18**
- **Parental responsibilities include:**
  - Feeding**
  - Clothing**
  - Protecting children's minds**
  - Providing shelter**
  - Supervision**
  - Providing Health Care**
  - Education**



# What is *Child Abuse and Neglect*?

- Can be subjective with many variables and gray areas
- What was OK at one time may not be OK another time



## **Legal Definition:**

**Child abuse or neglect occurs when the parent, guardian or other person responsible for the child's welfare inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical or mental injury or engages in acts of omissions which present a substantial risk of physical or mental injury to the child...**



# What Types of Child Abuse & Neglect are There?

## Major Types of Child Maltreatment:

- Physical Abuse
- Physical Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Mental Injury



# Responding to a Child

- Listen attentively
- Do not probe for details, especially concerning sexual abuse
- Avoid leading questions and all inclusive words
- Do not remove clothing
- Do not take pictures
  
- Your responsibility is to report!



## **Responding to a Child**

- Do not express doubt or disbelief; anger or shock
- Tell the child that you are going to contact DFCS
- Do not give false assurances that you will keep information confidential
- Report when essential information has been obtained





# Who is Responsible for Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect?

## Mandated Reporters by Law

### O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 (2016) Abbreviated

- a. The purpose of this Code section is to provide for the protection of children. It is intended that mandatory reporting will cause the protective services of the state to be brought to bear on the situation, in an effort to prevent abuses, to protect and enhance the welfare of children, and to preserve family life wherever possible.



# Who is Responsible for Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect?

## Mandatory Reporters by District Policy

- All district employees must report
- All must report orally
- Any doubt about reporting is to be resolved in favor of protecting the child. Always report.  
Do not make this decision yourself.



# How Do School Personnel Report Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect?

- Make a verbal report to your school Principal or designee  
School counselors and District School Social Worker shall will follow up with the student.

District School Social Worker is the DFCS Point of Contact .



## **Penalty for Not Reporting**

- Fined may exceed \$500
- Imprisoned not more than six months
- Or both of the above
- Sanctions may also come from the Ga PSC up to and including job loss.

Diligence

