



Shifting to Community Supporting: A National and Statewide Effort

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- Provide overview of various State and County efforts related to Mandatory Reporting.
- While many states have begun to examine their Neglect Definitions and impacts of Mandatory Reporting, today we will highlight Colorado, Texas and New York.

Colorado

- In 2022, the Colorado Legislature created a **Mandatory Reporting Taskforce** facilitated by the CPS Ombudsman to look closely at reforming policies related to mandatory reporting. An interim report with recommendations released January 1, 2024.
- Colorado developed a **50 State Data Base** and interactive maps on 8 key policy questions regarding mandatory reporting on the following topics: reporting timeframes, professional capacity, institutional policies, implicit bias, training and exemptions.

Texas

Two new laws enacted in 2022 **amended the definition of neglect** and **anonymous reporting** in the state.

[House Bill 567](#) (effective 9/1/21) amended the definition of “neglect” to add that a parent’s behavior must show “blatant disregard” for the consequences to the child and to require that a parent’s acts or failure to act result in harm or place the child in “immediate danger,” rather than “substantial risk” of harm.

[House Bill 63](#) (effective 9/1/23) prohibits the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) from receiving a report of child abuse or neglect from an anonymous reporter. If the person is unwilling to provide this information, intake staff will notify the person that DFPS is not able to accept an anonymous report of abuse and neglect and refer the person to local or state law enforcement. If law enforcement evaluates the report and refers it to DFPS, then DFPS is allowed to conduct a preliminary investigation on the report.

DFPS updated the [mandatory training available to the public online](#).

New York

- The state of New York has developed a **Mandated Reporter Decision Tree** to support mandated reporters in determining whether they should contact the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) about a concern.
- The first page of this resource contains a decision tree/flow chart to help mandatory reporters understand whether they must report a certain situation. The second page offers a strategy to mitigate bias when making a decision to report, encouraging mandatory reporters to ask themselves if they would make the same decision to call in a report if the child or family had a different characteristic, such as race immigration status, socio-economic status, and disability status.



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2024 Transforming Mandated Reporting Convening

Los Angeles

Mandated Supporting Initiative:

<https://supportingfamilies.lacounty.gov/>



Assembly Bill 2085 General Neglect Decision Tree for Mandated Reporters

Introduction

The following questions can help a Mandated Reporter decide what action to take if concerned that general neglect of a child may be occurring as a result of a parent/caregiver's actions or inactions. After completing Recommended Decision-Support Steps in the Assembly Bill (AB) 2085 Mandated Reporter Training Supplement, answer the questions embedded in the General Neglect Decision Tree for each general neglect concern that you have about a specific child.

The questions contain many common phrases that are interpreted in various ways. Please use the definitions provided in the "Definitions" section when answering the questions.

Note: Mandated Reporters are not required by law to use this General Neglect Decision Tree. Indication that "A report to the DCFS Child Protection Hotline is *not* required" or a recommendation to link a family to services and support is not necessarily conclusive and does not prohibit Mandated Reporters from contacting the DCFS Child Protection Hotline. Clear and present concerns about child safety should always be directed to the DCFS Child Protection Hotline, and Mandated Reporters should consult with their organizational leadership with any questions regarding this Decision Tree.

General Neglect Definition

For reference, under AB 2085, the definition of general neglect in California now includes:

- (1) Parent/caregiver's negligent failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision.
- (2) No physical injury to the child has occurred.
- (3) Child is at **substantial risk** of suffering **serious physical harm** or **serious illness**.
 - Substantial risk means that without intervention, child is likely to experience serious harm in the future.

San Diego

- As part of **San Diego's Family Strengthening and Prevention Initiative**, CPS calls that are evaluated out but may include risk for neglect are referred to 211sandiego.org, a resource and referral hub with over 6,000 resources. 2-1-1 staff ("navigation specialists") then provide broad outreach and support to these families with the goal of averting another hotline call, including follow-up to ensure families get connected to services.
- [How can helplines serve as a better pathway for families to access support?](#)
- [How does San Diego's child protection agency partner with 2-1-1 to better serve families and children?](#)

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