

Supervisor - Charlotte Hand

320-231-7800
Extension 2457

Child Protection Assessment: Child Protection Assessments are conducted in response to reports of children being abused or neglected by care givers. Family Services and Law Enforcement are required by law to cross report any child protection reports. The purpose of child protective services is to help protect children from physical abuse, neglect and sexual abuse. The goal is to help families get the services needed so children do not need to continue to be abused or neglected. Kandiyohi County Family Services has a screening team that screens all child protection reports that come into our agency. The screening team decides if there is enough information in the report that allows for an assessment to occur. If the screening team determines that the report has allegations that meet the criteria for assessment, we then determine what type of assessment will occur. The statute allows for two types of assessments that are used to complete a child protection assessment or investigation. Those types are an Investigation or a Family Assessment. An investigation is required if the report alleges substantial child endangerment or the report is regarding a facility (family child care, child foster care home or PCA providers). All other reports should be considered for Family Assessment. [Minnesota Statute 626.556, Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors](#) is the statute that directs child protection assessments.

How do I Report Abuse or Neglect? Call Kandiyohi County Family Services at 320-231-7800 or Law Enforcement (Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Department at 320-235-1260 or Willmar Police Department at 320-214-6700) if you believe that a child is being hurt or neglected. Some people, such as doctors, teachers, therapists and ministers, are required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Other people, such as neighbors or relatives are encouraged to also report if they think a child is being abused or neglected.

What will happen when I call? County child abuse staff will decide if your concerns fit within the statutory definitions of abuse or neglect. If so, a child protection worker will meet with the family to assess the situation. The name of the person making the report will not be shared with the family, unless the reporter agrees or the court compels it. Child protection will work with local law enforcement and individuals who know the child, such as doctors or teachers if necessary.

If protective services are needed, child protection will help the family use services such as counseling or parent education. The purpose of child protection is to prevent any future abuse or neglect. If a child is not safe at home, placement of the child outside the home will be considered. The child's placement could be done on a voluntary basis, with the parent's approval or at the direction of the court, or if it is an emergency, at the direction of law enforcement.

[What is considered abuse and neglect?](#)

[Who is a mandated reporter?](#)

[Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters](#)

[Family Assessment Response -](#)

What is considered abuse and neglect in Minnesota?

Neglect is the most common form of maltreatment:

It is usually failure of the child's caregiver to:

- supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter or medical care
- protect the child from conditions or actions which endanger the child
- take steps to ensure that a child is educated according to the law.

Exposing a child to certain drugs during the pregnancy and causing emotional harm to a child may also be considered neglect.

Physical abuse is any physical injury, inflicted by a caregiver upon a child other than by accidental means. It can range from minor bruises to severe internal injuries and death.

Mental injury is harm to the child's psychological capacity or emotional stability evidenced by an impairment of the child's functioning, is considered abuse in Minnesota.

Sexual abuse is the subjection of a child to a criminal sexual act or threatened act by a person responsible for the child's care or by a person who has a significant relationship to the child or is in a position of authority.

Who is a mandated reporter?

If you are a professional who works with children and families, you are in a key position to help protect children from harm. Minnesota law requires professionals and their delegates who work with children to make a child protection report if they know or have reason to believe:

- a child is being neglected or abused or
- a child has been neglected or abused within the preceding three years.

Mandated reporters include professionals and professionals' delegates in the following fields:

Health care	hospital administrators medical personnel and professionals dental professionals
Education	school administrators teachers and assistants school support staff
Social services	social workers group home staff foster parents
Law enforcement	
Guardians ad litem	
Clergy*	*Members of the clergy are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect unless that information is received under certain privileged circumstances (see Minnesota Statutes Section

	626.556, subd.3(a)(2) and Minnesota Statutes Section 595.02, subd. 1(c)).
Corrections management & staff	
Mental health professionals	psychologists therapists psychiatrists
Childcare	home childcare providers childcare center staff babysitters

Minnesota laws provide mandated reporters with great personal responsibility.

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, you cannot shift the responsibility of reporting to your supervisor, or to someone else in your office, school, clinic or licensed facility. You alone are responsible for making the report to the responsible agency.

Anyone who reports child abuse or neglect in good faith is immune from civil liability. The reporter's name is confidential, accessible only if the reporter consents or by court order. Anyone who is required to report suspected abuse or neglect and fails to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor. Reporting suspected abuse or neglect is a serious matter that must not be taken lightly. The child protection worker, law enforcement agent, or licensing agency worker to whom you report may ask you to provide as many facts as possible so they can assess the child's situation and determine the need for intervention. If the child protection report results in a court hearing, you may be asked to testify.

The inconvenience of reporting is offset by one simple fact: **the action you take may very well save the life and spirit of a child and provide a family with much needed support.**

Resources:

[Prevent Child Abuse MN](#)

[American Humane Society Stop Child Abuse](#)