

Valerie L’Herrou, JD Disclosure:

I want to stress that I cannot give legal advice to the participants, my remarks were only intended to be legal information.

Clarification:

Infant who is *born* affected by substance exposure vs. a child who may be at risk for substance exposure in her environment due to neglect.

There would not need to be an *effect* for that child, if neglect was occurring.

Criteria for Child Abuse

- Alleged victim is under the age of 18 at the time of the report
- Alleged abuser is in a caretaking role
- Alleged abuse or neglect meets the definition of abuse or neglect as defined by the CPS laws, regulations and policy
- The Virginia Department of Social Services local agency has jurisdiction to respond to the report

Hotline Number

In Virginia: (800) 552-7096

In determining in any given situation about whether a report is mandated, they need to consult their organizational protocols and their own legal counsel. They can call the CPS hotline to ask if a case meets the standard if it’s “on the line,” and in addition, CPS has a guide for mandated reporters here:

https://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/dfs/mandated_reporters/cps/resources_guidance/B032-02-0280-00-eng.pdf

AND: Resources & Guidance Here: <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/abuse/mr.cgi>

This includes the following topics:

- Mandated Reporter Overview & Resources (PDF)
- Definition of Mandated Reporter
- Allegations Against Individuals Unrelated to Child (PDF)
- Child Protective Services Program Overview (PDF)
- Guide to Mandated Reporters (PDF)
- Information Needed to Make a Report (PDF)
- Minimum Standards for a Curriculum for Mandated Reporters on Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect (PDF)
- Perinatal Substance Use: Promoting Healthy Outcomes (PDF)
- Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect in Virginia (PDF)
- Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect in Virginia (Spanish) (PDF)
- Recognizing Child Abuse & Neglect - A Guide for School Employees (PDF)
- Responsibilities of Mandated Reporters (PDF)