



SPLASH ALERT

“Mandated Reporter” Requirements for Districts with Youth Recreation Programs

A number of our member agencies offer day or recreation camps as part of their water education or community outreach programs. Member agencies offer camp participants and their families a variety of planned events while learning about water and other outdoor activities.

In order to have a fun-filled and safe camp, ACWA JPIA members partner with our Member Services Department on recreational coverage, and our Risk Management Department on methods to control associated risk. Since our focus is on safety for everyone involved, we would be remiss in not advising our members with day or recreational camps that staff in these programs are “Mandated Reporters.” The first child abuse reporting law in California was enacted in 1963 and only mandated physicians report evidence of physical abuse. A broader law, The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA), passed in 1974 and over the years, numerous amendments have expanded the definition of child abuse and the list of persons who are required to report it.



Photo Credit: Senjuti-Kundu

Who is a Mandated Reporter?

CANRA reporting requirements are outlined in the California penal code section **11164-11174.3** and **members with staff working in day or recreational camps are mandated reporters under 11165.7 (a) (6-8)** which identifies the following:

- An administrator of a public or private day camp.
- An administrator or employee of a public or private youth center, youth recreation program, or youth organization.
- An administrator or employee of a public or private organization whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children.



Photo Credit: Juliane Liebermann

What Must Be Reported

Mandated reporters are required to report **known, observed, or reasonably suspected** instances of child abuse or neglect to county Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement.

When and How to Report

Mandated reporters are required to report suspected/alleged child abuse and neglect to its county child protective agency (CPS or law enforcement), and file a mandated reporter form **within 36 hours** of submitting an oral report.

Written reports must be submitted on a Department of Justice (DOJ) SS 8572 form, which can be requested from your county CPS or local law enforcement. It can also be downloaded from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) website at www.mandatedreporterca.com.

If the mandated reporter does not report a case of known or even suspected child abuse, he or she can be found guilty of a misdemeanor and be punished by six months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.

CANRA Information, Resources, and Training

Additional information on what is abuse or neglect, CPS reporting forms, and CANRA training can be found on the California Department of Social Services website at www.mandatedreporterca.com. Their [general training module](#) is non-profession specific, and is a good source of mandated reporter requirements.