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For Immediate Release

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DA Summer Stephan Reaches Out to Mandated Reporters, Reminds Them of Duty to Disclose Suspected Abuse

New Outreach Materials Distributed to Schools, Healthcare Providers

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) announced today that her office has created an educational outreach campaign designed to increase awareness among school and healthcare employees about their duties as mandated reporters when they see suspected abuse or neglect involving children, elders or dependent adults.

“It is important that mandated reporters understand and comply with their responsibilities to report under the law,” District Attorney Summer Stephan said. “This allows law enforcement to investigate and to protect victims. Many professionals and caregivers in San Diego County are mandated reporters for suspected abuse and neglect but may not be aware of their specific duties under the law. We want to make sure the people in these positions know as much as possible about this important responsibility so victims of child abuse or elder abuse are protected.”

MANDATED REPORTING: IT'S THE LAW

Did You Know?

Reporting can help the individual or family get the help they need.

You cannot be held civilly or criminally liable for making a mandated report. However, it is a crime **NOT** to report.

If you are a mandated reporter, you are legally required to report if you know or reasonably suspect abuse of a child.

It's The Law

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act:
Penal Code sections 11164-11174

Reporting Steps For Child Abuse

Immediately, or as soon as practically possible, call the Child Abuse Hotline at (858) 560-2191 or (800) 344-6000.

Submit Form 8572 within 36 hours.

MANDATED REPORTING: IT'S THE LAW

Child Abuse or Neglect Includes:

Physical Abuse (Penal Code sections 11165.4, 11165.6)

Emotional Abuse (Penal Code section 11165.3)

Sexual Abuse (Penal Code section 11165.1(a))

Sexual Exploitation (Penal Code section 11165.1(c))

General Neglect (Penal Code section 11165.2(b))

Severe Neglect (Penal Code section 11165.2(a))

Learn more about child abuse and mandated reporting: www.sdcdca.org



The DA's Family Protection Division is distributing the materials to every school in San Diego County and coordinating with healthcare providers to offer training, along with printed materials that

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describe the role of mandated reporters. The educational brochures and a pocket card remind individuals of the law, let them know where to report, and direct them to resources where they can learn more about their duties regarding certain abuse, injuries or neglect. A [new page](#) on the DA's public website outlines what mandated reporting is, who is mandated to report suspected abuse and how to go about making the report.

The law defines mandated reporters broadly, and includes any person who has assumed full or intermittent responsibility for the care, custody or education of children, elders or dependent adults, whether or not he or she receives compensation. This includes teachers, coaches, administrators, supervisors, and any licensed staff of a public or private facility as well as health practitioners, clergy members, or employees of a county adult protective services agency or a local law enforcement agency.

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue justice and support victims daily across San Diego County. DA Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families and providing justice to the voiceless and most vulnerable. She is a national leader in the fight against sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and has served as a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County for 28 years.

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