



California School Nurses Organization

Prevention and Management of Child Maltreatment Position Statement

The California School Nurse Organization recognizes that child maltreatment and neglect is a serious problem that can impact an individual's lifelong physical and mental health outcomes. The Credentialed School nurse is the school health professional who may identify, educate, and manage maltreatment and neglect cases. Additionally, the school nurse may act as a link between the school and child protective services, law enforcement and community health agencies in the prevention and management of maltreatment and neglect services.

RATIONALE

It is estimated that 1 in 4 children experience some form of child abuse or neglect in their lifetimes and 1 in 7 children have experienced abuse or neglect in the last year. In 2021, 1,753 children died of abuse and neglect in the United States. (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2021)

There are four types of abuse and neglect: physical, sexual, emotional and neglect. In 2022, the Health and Human Services Dept added child sex trafficking and addiction at birth to the types of maltreatment and neglect list. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022). (CDC)

Per the CDC, child abuse and neglect prevention efforts should address the following areas:

- *Strengthen economic supports to families*
- *Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting*
- *Provide quality care and education early in life*
- *Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development*
- *Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risks (CDC, 2022)*

In California, Ed Code 44691, all school districts, county office of education, state special schools, charter schools and their personnel are required to develop and distribute information regarding detection and reporting of child abuse. Additionally, per California Penal Code Section 11165.7, school personnel are recognized mandated reporters and must receive annual training to ensure appropriate detection and reporting procedures.

Every child needs a safe, stable family in which to live, and grow, and prevention and management of child maltreatment are critical to the physical and emotional development of all youth. School nurses are key contributors to supporting the health, well-being, and academic achievement of students by striving to keep them healthy, safe, and able to learn. (NASN 2023)

REFERENCES

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). (2021) *Child Abuse and Neglect*.

<https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/child-abuse-and-neglect/>

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https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=44691.&lawCode=EDC

California Penal Code Section 11165.7 Article 2.5. Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

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CSNO Board Approval History

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