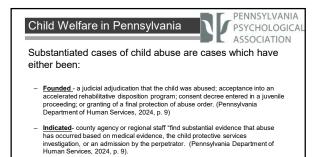
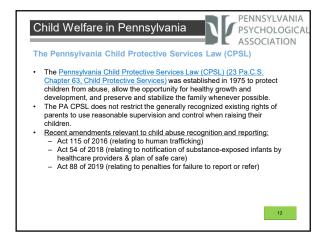


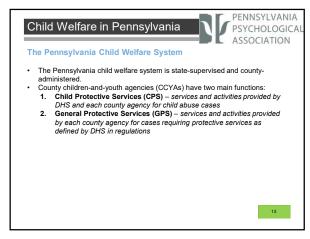
## PENNSYLVANIA Child Welfare in Pennsylvania **PSYCHOLOGICAL** ASSOCIATION Statistics from the 2024 PA Child Protective Services Report: In 2023, Pennsylvania received 40,301 reports of suspected child abuse and 4.720 of those reports were substantiated. Of the substantiated incidents of child abuse in 2023: 34.1% (1.749) involved reports of sexual abuse 26.3% (1,350) involved reports of physical abuse/bodily injury 16.1% (827) involved reasonable likelihood of bodily injury 15.9% (814) involved serious physical neglect 3.8% (197) involved engaging in per se acts 1.8% (92) involved the likelihood of sexual abuse/exploitation 1.1% (57) involved a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking 55 sex trafficking, 2 labor trafficking 0.8% (40) involved serious mental injury 0.1% (3) involved Munchausen Syndrome by proxy/medical abuse

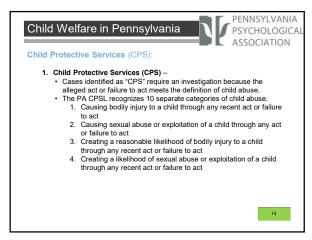
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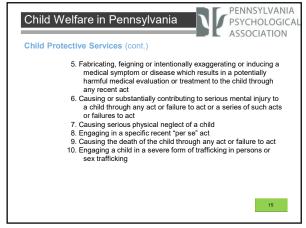


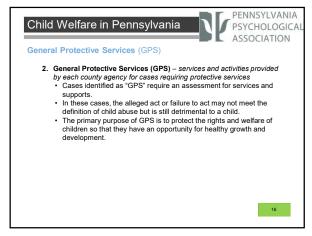
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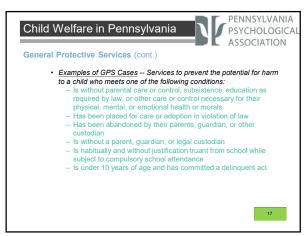


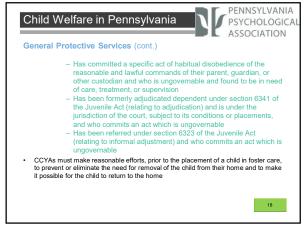






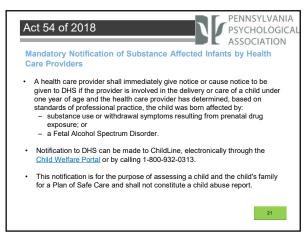


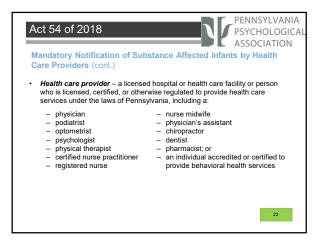


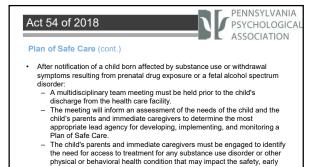


## Child Welfare in Pennsylvania In 2023, Pennsylvania received a total of 90,317 valid GPS concerns involving: Caregiver substance use (16,338) Conduct by caregiver that places child at risk or fails to protect child (10,553) Child behavioral health/irtellectual disability concerns (10,345) Experiencing homelessness/inadequate housing (8,875) Truancydeutcational neglect (6933) Domestic violence (6,441) Inadequate basic needs (6,142) Caregiver behavioral health/irtellectual disability concerns (6,110) Inappropriate discipline (3,932) Lack of supervision (3,727) Other (3,641) Inadequate health care (2,546) Child substance use disorder (1,539) Child acting out sexually (1,408) Abandommentilack of caregiver (1,294) Child under 1 year old who has withdrawal/born affected by drug exposure (424) Isolation (39) Adoption disruption/dissolution (26) Child under 1 year old who is identified as having fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (3) Placed for care/adoption in violation of law (1) (Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, 2024)

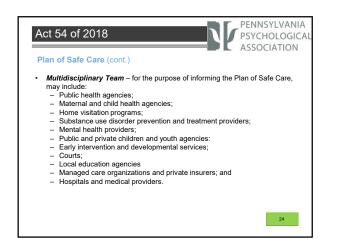




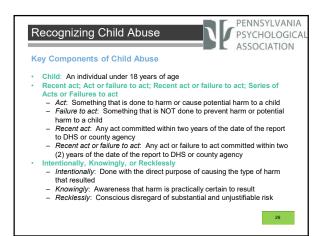


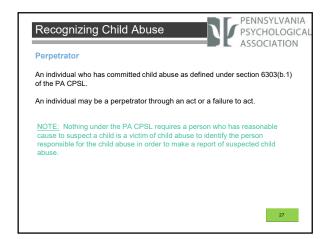


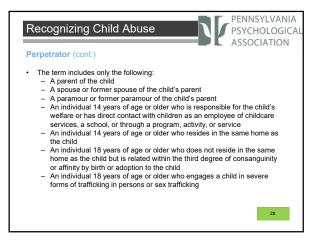
childhood development, and well-being of the child. Depending upon the needs of the child and parent(s)/caregiver(s), ongoing involvement of the county agency may not be required.

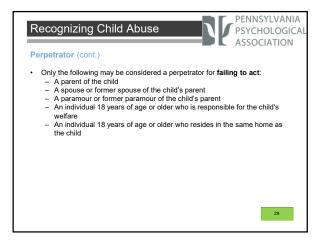


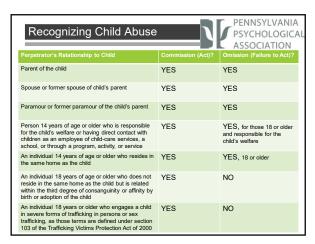


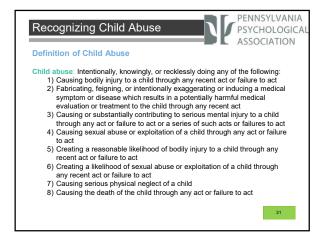


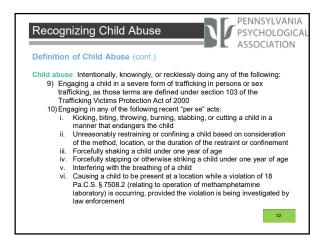


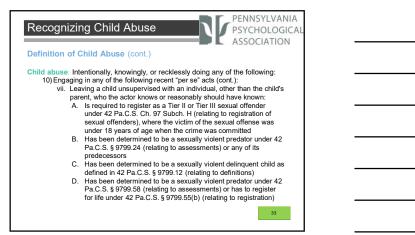






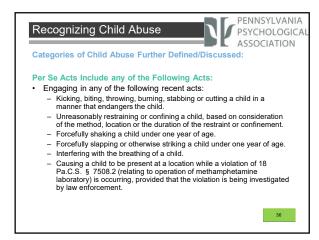














- Per Se Acts Include any of the Following Acts (cont.):

  Leaving a child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who the actor knows or reasonably should have known

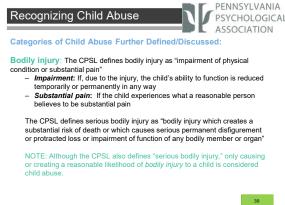
  (A) Is required to register as a Tier II or Tier III sexual offender under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 Subch. H (relating to registration of sexual offenders), where the victim of the sexual offense was under 18 years of age when the crime was committed

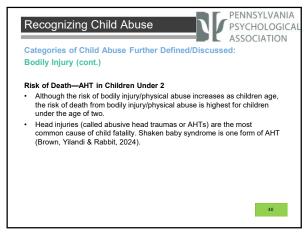
  (B) Has been determined to be a sexually violent predator under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.24 (relating to assessments) or any of its predecessors
  - predecessors
  - (C) Has been determined to be a sexually violent delinquent child as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.12 (relating to definitions)
  - (D) Has been determined to be a sexually violent predator under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.58 (relating to assessments) or has to register for life under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.55(b) (relating to registration)



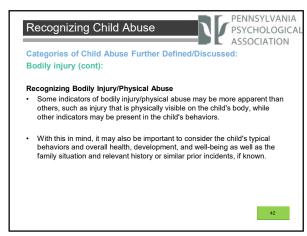


- It may otherwise be recognized that Munchausen by proxy, falls under this category of child abuse.
- Munchausen by proxy is also known as caregiver fabricated treatment or pediatric illness falsification. These last two terms are less frequently used but are designed to focus attention on the child instead of the mental state of the caregiver (APSAC Taskforce, 2018).





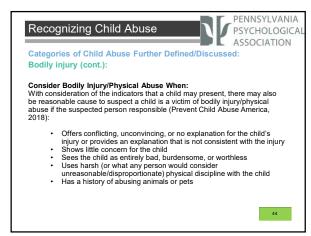




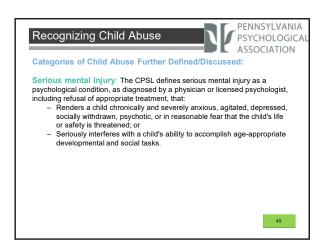
## PENNSYLVANIA Recognizing Child Abuse **PSYCHOLOGICAL** ASSOCIATION Categories of Child Abuse Further Defined/Discussed: Bodily injury (cont.): Indicators of Bodily Injury - Extreme apprehensiveness/vigilance - Fear of going home Pronounced aggression or passivity Flinches easily or avoids being touched Fear of parent/caregiver Abuses animals/pets Changes in eating and sleeping habits Play includes abusive talk or behavior Unexplained injuries (such as burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, black eyes) Unbelievable or inconsistent explanations of injuries Injuries inconsistent with a child's age/developmental level Unable to recall how injuries occurred or account of injuries is inconsistent with the nature of the injuries Bruises located on face, ears, neck, buttocks, back, chest, thighs, back of legs, and genitalia Bruises that resemble objects such as a hand, fist, belt buckle, or rope

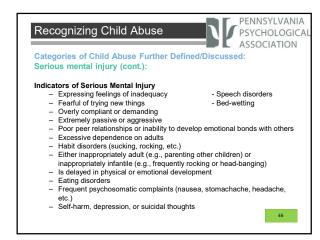
- Multiple bruises in various stages of healing

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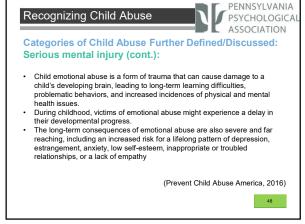


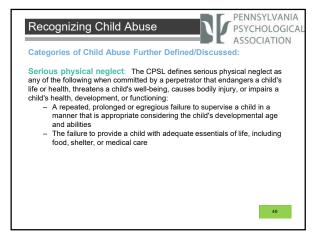
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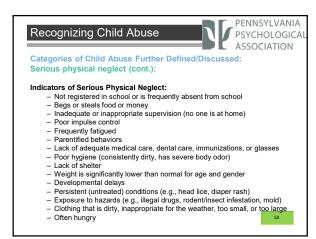


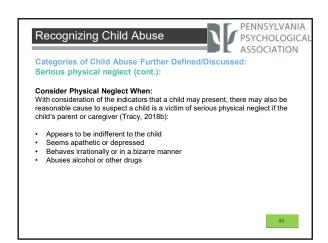












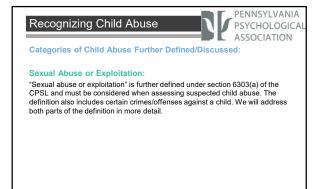


Categories of Child Abuse Further Defined/Discussed: Serious physical neglect (cont.):

- In addition, abuse could occur through inadequate supervision, such as repeatedly leaving a young child at home without supervision by an adult or an older child.
- In Pennsylvania, there is no set minimum age to leave a child at home unsupervised. As such, no fixed age limits can be established to determine when lack of supervision occurs in all situations.
- Instead, the mandated reporter needs to consider the context in which the lack of supervision occurs such as the degree of danger to the child, the child's level of comfort in being left alone, the developmental age and abilities of the child, the child's understanding of safety protocols, and other factors (DiSanto, 2023).

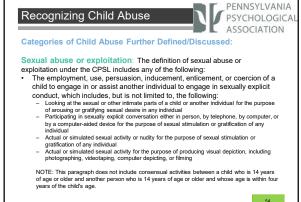
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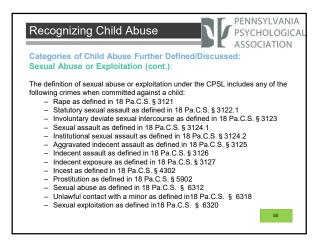
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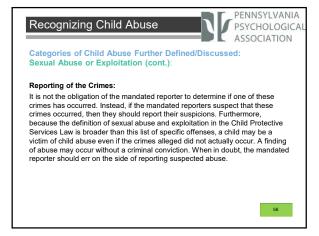


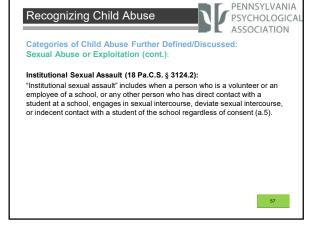
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Categories of Child Abuse Further Defined/Discussed: Sexual Abuse or Exploitation (cont.):

## Intentionally Viewing Child Pornography:

An adult who intentionally views child pornography is committing sexual abuse. The CPSL's definition of "sexual abuse or exploitation" includes an offense of child pornography under 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312(d) (relating to sexual abuse of children) which prescribes that any person who intentionally views or knowingly possesses or controls any book, magazine, pamphlet, slide, photograph, film, videotape, computer depiction or other material depicting a child under the age of 18 years engaging in a prohibited sexual act or in the simulation of such act commits an offense

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## Recognizing Child Abuse



Categories of Child Abuse Further Defined/Discussed: Sexual Abuse or Exploitation (cont.):

Intentionally Viewing Child Pornography (cont.): Furthermore, 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312 (g) defines the following words and phrases:

- "Intentionally views." The deliberate, purposeful, voluntary viewing of material depicting a child under 18 years of age engaging in a prohibited sexual act or in the simulation of such act. The term shall not include the accidental or inadvertent viewing of such material.
- "Prohibited sexual act." Sexual intercourse as defined in section 3101 (relating to definitions), masturbation, sadism, masochism, bestiality, fellatio, cunnilingus, lewd exhibition of the genitals or nudity if such nudity is depicted for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification of any person who might view such depiction.

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## Recognizing Child Abuse



Categories of Child Abuse Further Defined/Discussed: Sexual Abuse or Exploitation (cont.):

Sexting:

Though Pennsylvania criminal law does not explicitly recognize the term "sexting", a minor commits a criminal offense under 18 Pa C.S. § 6321 (relating to transmission of sexually explicit images by minor) if the minor:

Knowingly transmits, distributes, publishes, or disseminates an electronic communication containing a sexually explicit image of [them]self.

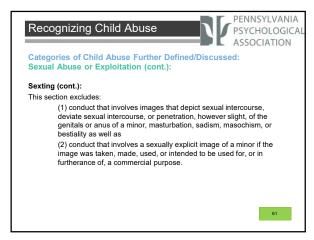
Knowingly pressesses or knowingly views a sexually explicit image of a minor who is 12 years of age or older.

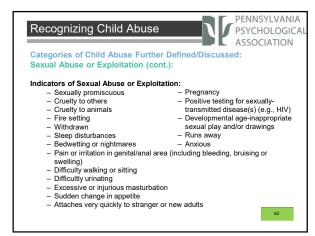
Knowingly transmits, distributes, publishes, or disseminates an electronic communication containing a sexually explicit image of another minor who is 12 years of age or older.

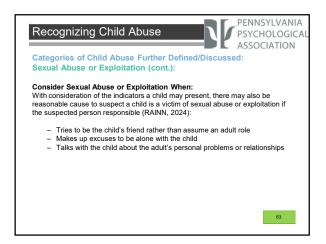
Makes a visual depiction of any minor in a state for nuclity without the knowledge and consent of the depicted minor, with the intent to coerce, intimidate, torment, harass, or otherwise cause emotional distress to the minor.

Transmits, distributes, publishes, or disseminates a visual depiction of any minor in a state of nuclity without the knowledge and consent of the depicted minor with the intent to coerce, intimidate, torment, harass, or otherwise cause emotional distress to another minor.

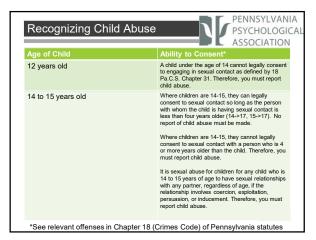
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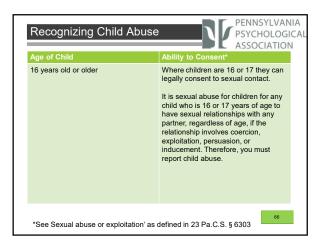


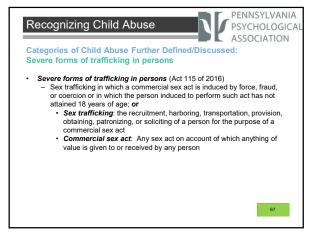


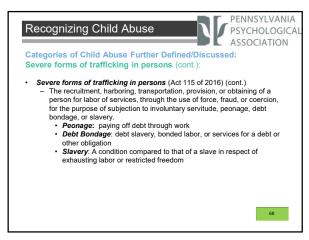


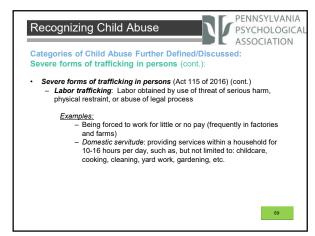


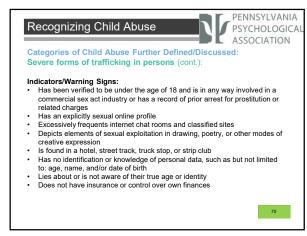


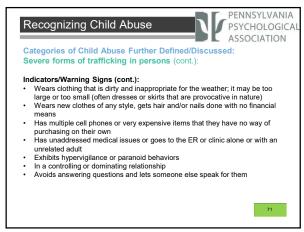


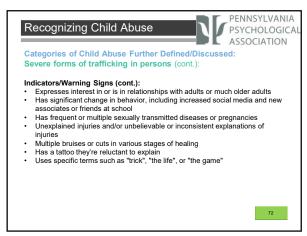


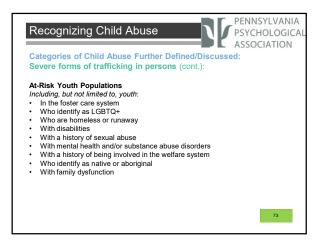


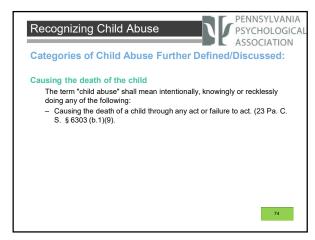














## Recognizing Child Abuse



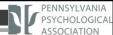
## **Risk & Protective Factors: Risk Factors for Victimization**

- · Individual Risk Factors
  - Children younger than 4 years of age
  - Children with special needs that may increase caregiver burden (e.g., disabilities, mental health issues, and chronic physical

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2022)

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## Recognizing Child Abuse



## **Risk & Protective Factors:** Risk Factors for Perpetration:

- · Individual Risk Factors

  - Caregivers with drug or alcohol issues Caregivers with mental health issues, including depression
  - Caregivers who don't understand children's needs or development

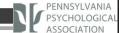
  - Caregivers who were abused or neglected as children
    Caregivers who are young or single parents or parents with many
    children
  - Caregivers with low education or income
  - Caregivers experiencing high levels of parenting stress or economic stress
  - Caregivers who use spanking and other forms of corporal punishment for discipline Caregivers in the home who are not a biological parent

  - Caregivers with attitudes accepting of or justifying violence or aggression

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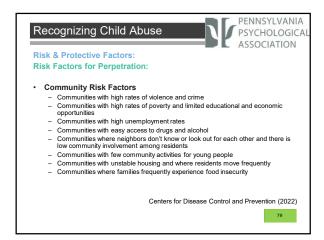
## Recognizing Child Abuse

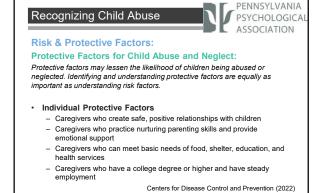


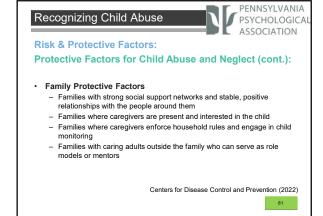
## **Risk & Protective Factors: Risk Factors for Perpetration:**

- · Family Risk Factors
  - Families that have household members in jail or prison
  - Families that are isolated from and not connected to other people (extended family, friends, neighbors)
  - Families experiencing other types of violence, including relationship
  - Families with high conflict and negative communication styles

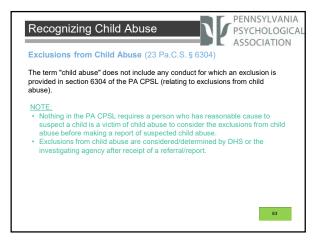
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2022)

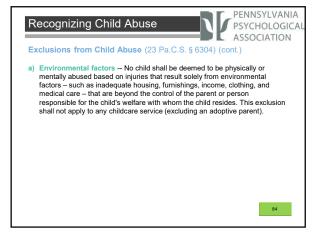


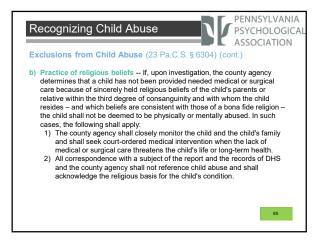


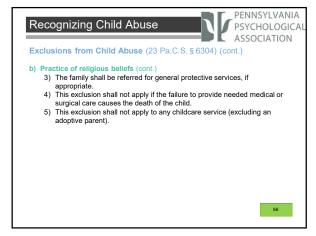


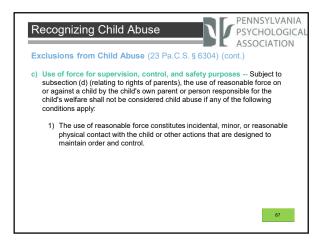


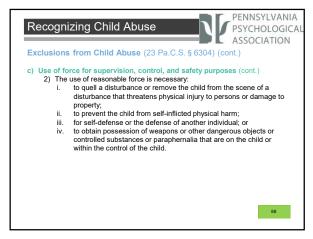


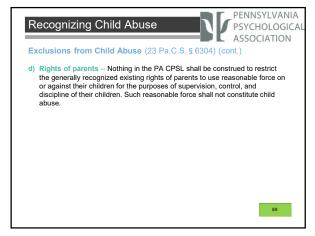


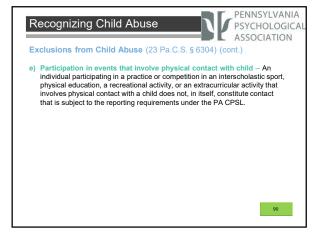


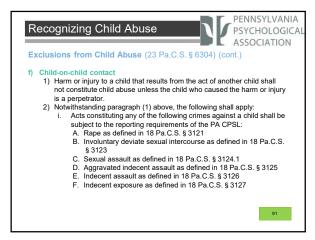


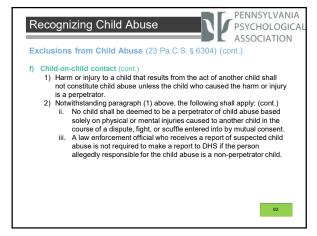


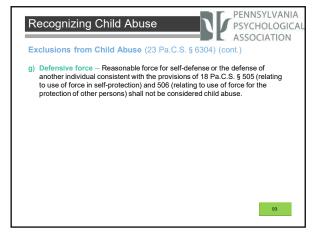
















## Reasonable Cause to Suspect

- "Reasonable cause to suspect" may be a determination you make based on
  your training/experience and all known circumstances to include "who",
  "what", "how", and "when", observations (e.g., indicators of abuse or "red
  flags", behavior/demeanor of the child(ren), behavior/demeanor of the adult(s),
  etc.), as well as familiarity with the individuals (e.g., family situation and
  relevant history or similar prior incidents, etc.). It is also important to recognize
  how your feelings and personal biases may influence your conclusions and
  actions.
- actions.

  Some indicators may be more apparent than others depending on the type of abuse and/or depending on the child's health, development, and well-being, as well as may be physically visible on the child's body while other indicators may be present in the child's behaviors. It is also worth acknowledging that some indicators may overlap and suggest a child is a victim of more than one type of child abuse.

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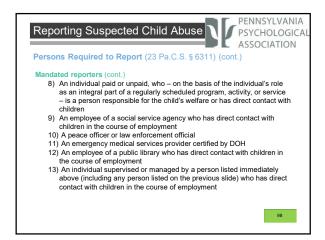
Persons Encouraged to Report (23 Pa.C.S. § 6312)

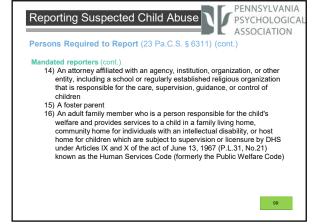
Any person may, and is strongly encouraged to, make an oral (1-800-932-0313) or written report of suspected child abuse, which may be submitted electronically, or cause a report of suspected child abuse to be made to DHS, county agency, or law enforcement, if that person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse.

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## PENNSYLVANIA Reporting Suspected Child Abuse **PSYCHOLOGICAL** ASSOCIATION Persons Required to Report (23 Pa.C.S. § 6311) Mandated reporters -- The following adults shall make a report of suspected child abuse, subject to subsection (b), if the person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse: 1) A person licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field under the jurisdiction of the Department of State (DOS) 2) A medical examiner, coroner, or funeral director An employee of a health care facility or provider licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) who is engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of individuals A school employee 5) An employee of a child-care service who has direct contact with children in the course of employment 6) An independent contractor 7) A clergyman, priest, rabbi, minister, Christian Science practitioner, religious healer, or spiritual leader of any regularly established church or other religious organization

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## Reporting Suspected Child Abuse PENNSYLVANIA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Persons Required to Report (23 Pa.C.S. § 6311) (cont.)

Basis to Report -- A mandated reporter enumerated in section 6311(a) of the PA CPSL shall make a report of suspected child abuse if the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances:

- The mandated reporter comes into contact with the child in the course of employment, occupation, and practice of a profession or through a regularly exhaulted program activity or services.
- regularly scheduled program, activity, or service

  2) The mandated reporter is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance, or training of the child, or is affiliated with an agency, institution, organization, school, regularly established church or religious organization, or other entity that is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance, or training of the child
- 3) A person makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable child is the victim of child abuse
- An individual 14 years of age or older makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that the individual has committed child abuse

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## Reporting Suspected Child Abuse PENNSYLVANIA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Persons Required to Report (23 Pa.C.S. § 6311) (cont.)

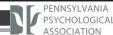
## Basis to Report (cont):

- Nothing in this section shall require a child to come before the mandated reporter in order for the mandated reporter in order to make a report of suspected child abuse.
- Nothing in this section shall require the mandated reporter to identify the
  person responsible for the child abuse in order to make a report of suspected
  child abuse.

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## Reporting Suspected Child Abuse



- Please note, even if a mandated reporter is "off the clock", they are
  required to report suspected child abuse if: a person makes a specific
  disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable child is the victim of
  child abuse; or a person 14 years of age or older makes a specific disclosure
  to the mandated reporter that they have committed child abuse.
- For example, a healthcare professional must make a report of suspected child abuse if a person over the age of 14 informed the healthcare professional that they forcefully slapped an infant under the age of one to keep the infant quiet, even if the person was not patient/client of the health care professional or even if the person was a patient/client of the healthcare professional but the person's disclosure was made while the healthcare professional was "off the clock" (or was not in their capacity as a healthcare professional).

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## Reporting Suspected Child Abuse



- · Please note: it is not the reporter's responsibility to do any of the following in order to make a report of suspected child abuse:
  - Conduct an investigation
  - Identify or name the person who allegedly committed child abuse or harm to a child
  - Determine if the person who allegedly committed child abuse or harm to a child meets the definition of "perpetrator" as defined.

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## Reporting Suspected Child Abuse



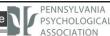
There may also be instances where the child suspected or alleged to be a victim of child abuse is an adult (18 years of age or older) at the time of disclosure.

- Mandated reporters may report abuse reported by a person who is an adult; and the possibility of such a report needs to be considered if the perpetrator has access to vulnerable children.

  Nonetheless, the mandate to report abuse is only triggered if the victim is currently under the age of 18
- DHS-OCYF maintains its position to support the reporting of alleged/suspected child abuse to protect all children. A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect a child is a victim of child abuse shall make a report to ChildLine.
- Furthermore, a mandated reporter who is unsure whether a specific situation/scenario meets the mandatory reporting requirements of the CPSL should consult with their agency/organization's legal counsel when making these evaluations.
- It is strongly encouraged child abuse of a suspected or alleged victim who is over the age of 18 at the time of disclosure be reported, if there is reason to suspect the person who allegedly committed child abuse or harm to a child could still have access to and pose a risk to children.

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## Reporting Suspected Child Abuse



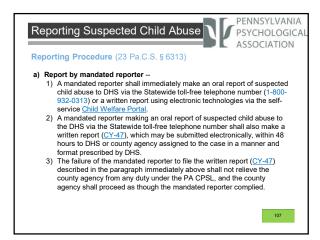
Persons Required to Report (23 Pa.C.S. § 6311) (cont.)

c) Staff members of institutions, etc. -- Whenever a person is required to report under subsection (b) (relating to basis to report) in the capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility, or agency, that person shall report immediately in accordance with section 6313 (relating to reporting procedure) and shall immediately thereafter notify the person in charge of the institution, school, facility, or agency or the designated agent of the person in charge. Upon notification, the person in charge or the designated agent, if any, shall facilitate the cooperation of the institution, school, facility, or agency with the investigation of the report. Any intimidation, retaliation, or obstruction in the investigation of the report is subject to the provisions of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4958 (relating to intimidation, retaliation or obstruction in child abuse cases). The PA CPSL does not require more than one report from any such institution, school, facility, or agency.

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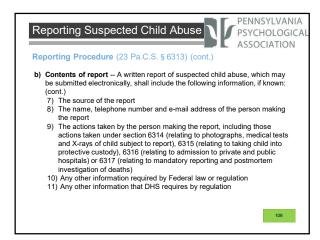
## PENNSYLVANIA Reporting Suspected Child Abuse **PSYCHOLOGICAL** ASSOCIATION Privileged Communications (23 Pa.C.S. § 6311.1) a) General rule -- Subject to subsection (b), the privileged communications between a mandated reporter and a patient or client of the mandated reporter shall not: 1) Apply to a situation involving child abuse 2) Relieve the mandated reporter of the duty to make a report of suspected child abuse. b) Confidential communications -- The following protections shall apply: 1) Confidential communications made to a member of the clergy are protected under 42 Pa.C.S. § 5943 (relating to confidential communications to clergymen). 2) Confidential communications made to an attorney are protected so long as they are within the scope of 42 Pa.C.S. § § 5916 (relating to confidential communications to attorney) and 5928 (relating to confidential communications to attorney), the attorney work product doctrine, or the rules of professional conduct for attorneys.

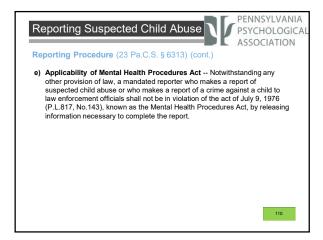
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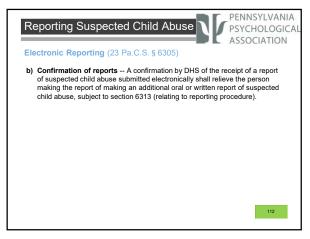
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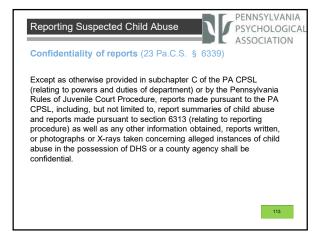
# Reporting Procedure (23 Pa.C.S. § 6313) (cont.) b) Contents of report — A written report of suspected child abuse, which may be submitted electronically, shall include the following information, if known: 1) The names and addresses of the child, the child's parents, and any other person responsible for the child's welfare 2) Where the suspected abuse occurred 3) The age and sex of each subject of the report 4) The nature and extent of the suspected child abuse, including any evidence of prior abuse to the child or any sibling of the child 5) The name and relationship of each individual responsible for causing the suspected abuse and any evidence of prior abuse by each individual 6) Family composition

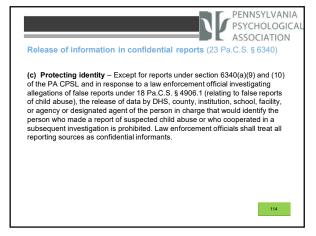






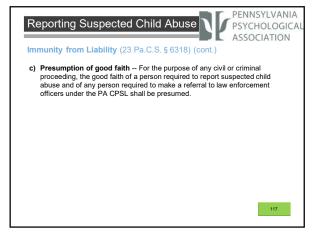






# Reporting Suspected Child Abuse Immunity from Liability (23 Pa.C.S. § 6318) a) General rule — A person, hospital, institution, school, facility, agency, or agency employee acting in good faith shall have immunity from civil and criminal liability that might otherwise result from any of the following: 1) Making a report of suspected child abuse or making a referral for general protective services, regardless of whether the report is required to be made under the PA CPSL. 2) Cooperating or consulting with an investigation under the PA CPSL, including providing information to a child fatality or near-fatality review team 3) Testifying in a proceeding arising out of an instance of suspected child abuse or general protective services 4) Engaging in any action authorized under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6314 (relating to photographs, medical tests and X-rays of child subject to report), § 6315 (relating to taking child info protective custody), § 6316 (relating to admission to private and public hospitals), or § 6317 (relating to mandatory reporting and postmortern investigation of deaths)





## PENNSYLVANIA Reporting Suspected Child Abuse **PSYCHOLOGICAL** ASSOCIATION

Protection from Employment Discrimination (23 Pa.C.S. § 6320)

- a) Basis for relief -- A person may commence an action for appropriate relief if all of the following apply:
  - The person is required to report suspected child abuse or encouraged to report suspected child abuse
  - The person acted in good faith in making or causing the report of suspected child abuse to be made.
  - As a result of making the report of suspected child abuse, the person is discharged from employment or is discriminated against with respect to compensation, hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment.
- b) Applicability This section does not apply to an individual making a report of suspected child abuse who is found to be a perpetrator because of the report or to any individual who fails to make a report of suspected child abuse as required and is subject to conviction for failure to report or to refer.

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### PENNSYLVANIA Reporting Suspected Child Abuse **PSYCHOLOGICAL** ASSOCIATION

Penalties (23 Pa.C.S. § 6319)

- a) Failure to report or refer -
  - 1) A person or official required by the PA CPSL to report a case of suspected child abuse or to make a referral to the appropriate authorities commits an offense if the person or official willfully fails to do so.
  - An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree if:
     i. The person or official willfully fails to report;

    - The child abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher; and The person or official has direct knowledge of the nature of the abuse.

  - 3) An offense not otherwise specified in paragraph (2) above is a misdemeanor of the second degree.
  - A report of suspected child abuse to law enforcement or the appropriate county agency by a mandated reporter, made in lieu of a report to DHS, shall not constitute an offense under this subsection, provided that the report was made in a good faith effort to comply with the requirements of the PA CPSL.

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### PENNSYLVANIA Reporting Suspected Child Abuse **PSYCHOLOGICAL** ASSOCIATION

Penalties (23 Pa.C.S. § 6319) (cont.)

- b) Continuing course of action -- If a person's willful failure to report an individual suspected of child abuse continues while the person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect a child is being subjected to child abuse by the same individual, or while the person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that the same individual continues to have direct contact with children through the individual's employment, program, activity, or service, the person commits a felony of the third degree...except that, if the child abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher, the person commits a felony of the second degree.
- c) Multiple offenses -- A person who, at the time of sentencing for an offense Multiple orienses — A person who, at the time of sentencing for an oriense under this section, has been convicted of a prior offense under this section commits a felony of the third degree. .except that, if the child abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher, the penalty for the second or subsequent offenses is a felony of the second degree.

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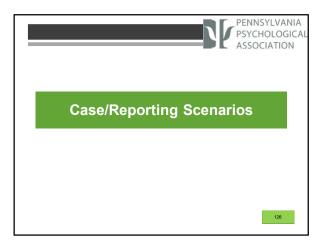


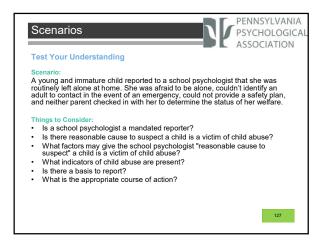


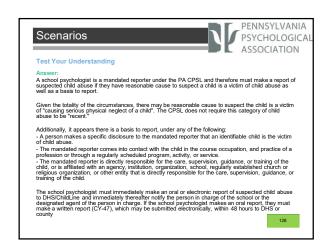


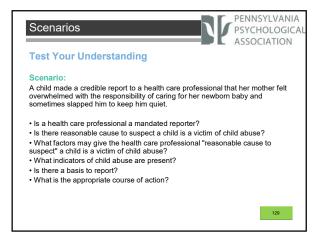


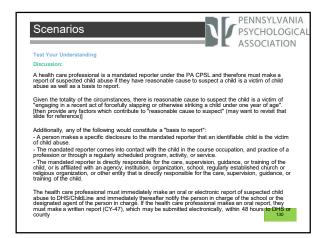


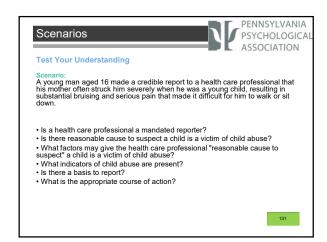


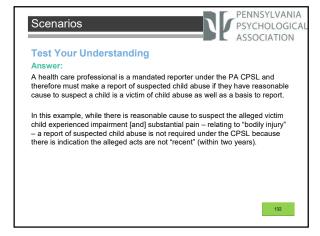


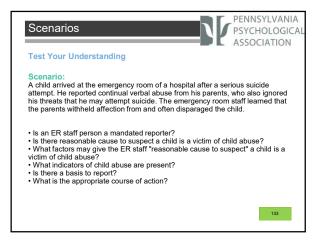


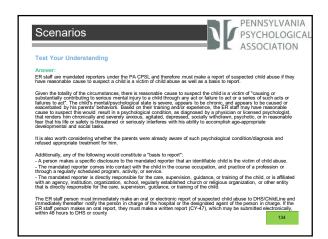


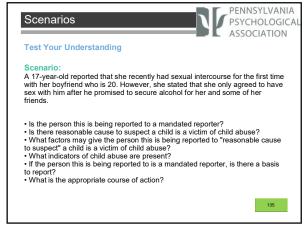


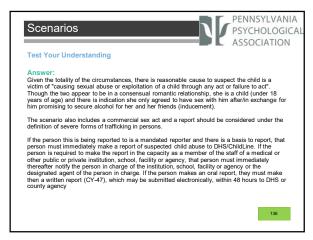




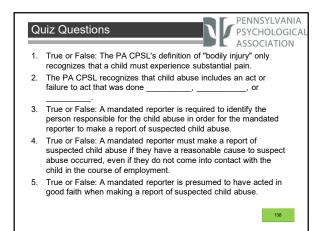


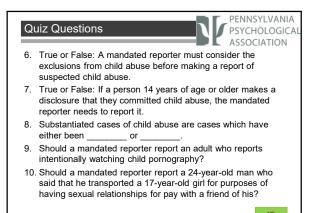




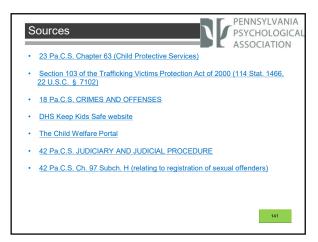














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