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PIN 24-10-CCP

TO: ALL CHILD CARE LICENSEES, APPLICANTS, AND PROVIDERS

FROM: **Original signed by Kevin Gaines**  
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COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION

SUBJECT: **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS**

**Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary**

**PIN 24-10-CCP provides guidance for preventing child abuse, the importance of connecting families to services, recognizing signs of abuse, and reporting suspected child abuse.**

Child abuse and neglect (also referred to generally as child maltreatment) is a serious public health concern and often contributes to [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) and toxic stress](#) that in turn have far-reaching consequences.

“Child abuse” means non-accidental physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by another person; sexual abuse; neglect; the willful harming, injuring, or endangerment of a child; or unlawful corporal punishment of a child (see [Penal Code section 11165.6](#)).

“Neglect” means the negligent treatment or the maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child’s welfare and includes both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person (see [Penal Code section 11165.2](#)).

Examples of reportable abuse or neglect include, but are not limited to, the following situations:

- Physical abuse: Where a person inflicts cruel or excessive punishment or discipline, resulting in non-accidental injuries to a child.
- Emotional abuse: Where a person causes or allows a child to suffer or inflicts a child with mental pain.

- Sexual abuse: Any sexual assault or sexual exploitation of a child as defined in [Penal Code section 11165.1](#)
- Neglect: Where a person responsible for a child's welfare negligently fails to provide the child adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision, placing the child at substantial risk of serious physical harm or illness. "General neglect" does not include a parent's economic disadvantage.

[All County Letter 23-105](#) provides clarifying guidance on the passage of [Assembly Bill 2085](#) and the definition of "General neglect" removing parent's economic disadvantage as a reason to make a report to the hotline.

### **Mandated Reporting and Training**

A [mandated reporter](#) is a person required by law to report any suspected or known instances of abuse or neglect of a child to their county child welfare department or law enforcement. In California, child care facility licensees, administrators, and employees are mandated reporters and are required to complete [mandated reporter training](#) in compliance with [Health and Safety Code, section 1596.8662](#).

A person who applies to operate a licensed child care facility must complete the mandated reporter training as a *precondition* to licensure. However, child care administrators and employees of a licensed child care facility are required to complete the training within the first 90 days of their employment at the licensed facility. For child care facility licensees, administrators, and employees, renewal of the mandated reporter training is required every two years following the date on which that person completed the initial mandated reporter training.

If you suspect that a child has been, or is in danger of, abuse or neglect, contact the local county's [24-hour child abuse reporting hotline](#). You may also contact a police department or county sheriff's department. Mandated reporters are required to report suspected abuse or neglect by phone as soon as possible and follow up with a completed [written report](#) within 36 hours. Failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect by a mandated reporter is a misdemeanor, punishable by law.

### **Prevention**

Even though child abuse is a serious health concern it can be prevented. Child care providers can be part of the solution by helping to connect families in need to resources, services, and supports addressing issues such as poverty, mental health, substance use, or other areas to improve protective capacities for families.

Since 1998, cases of general neglect being reported to the local child welfare agency have continued to rise in California with more than 200,000 children being reported for neglect in 2021, about 75% of allegations of maltreatment when compared to physical abuse allegations ([California Child Welfare Indicators Project](#), 2022). Families are consistently overreported to child welfare services for neglect, often due to concerns related to economic disadvantages such as the ability to provide food, shelter, or

clothing. This leaves many families interacting with the child welfare system, unnecessarily, creating lasting trauma.

### Family First Prevention Services Program

In July 2021, California established the [Family First Prevention Services](#) (FFPS) program through [WIC §§16585-16589](#). The objective of FFPSA is to enhance support services to families to help children and youth remain at home and reduce the use of congregate care placements by increasing options for prevention services, increased oversight, and requirements for placements, and enhancing the requirements for congregate care placement settings.

### Protective Factors

The [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#) has developed a [Strengthening Families Framework](#), that when implemented increases family strengths, enhances child development, and reduces the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The [Protective Factors](#) in the framework include but are not limited to:

1. **Parental resilience:** Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.
2. **Social connections:** Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, instrumental, and spiritual support.
3. **Knowledge of parenting and child development:** Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development.
4. **Concrete support in times of need:** Access to concrete support and services that address a family's needs and help minimize stress caused by challenges.
5. **Social and emotional competence of children:** Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions, and establish and maintain healthy relationships.

Another protective factor that is not part of the original framework is **Nurturing and attachment**. Research shows that children who receive affection and nurturing from a consistent caregiver have the best chance of growing up to be happy, healthy, and productive. Research also shows these children do better academically, behaviorally, and have an increased ability to cope with stress.

Understanding these protective factors and building them into communities may result in significant and positive impacts on children's overall health, safety, and well-being. Additionally, Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) have the power to prevent or protect children from traumatic events, toxic stress, or ACEs. PCEs stem from safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments and these positive experiences can happen both in and outside the home. Parents, caregivers, relatives, teachers, community members, and neighbors can create environments, experiences, and relationships that protect and care for children.

Each of us can help by becoming familiar with the [signs of child abuse](#) and by being involved and engaged in our communities. Your influence matters in the lives of California's children.

### Resources

- [The Office of Child Abuse Prevention](#)
- [Prevent Child Abuse California](#)
- [Positive Childhood Experiences](#)
- [The California Parent and Youth Helpline](#)
- [Family Advocacy and Mentoring Network](#)
- [CalHOPE](#)
- [Adverse childhood experiences \(ACEs\) \(Center for Disease Control\)](#)
- [Office of the Surgeon General](#)
- [Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning](#)
- [ZERO TO THREE](#)
- [Mandated Reporter to Community Supporting Task Force](#)
- [California Department of Education](#)
- [Central California Alliance for Health](#)
- [Department of Health Care Services](#)

### Connection

The California Training Institute provides professional development opportunities and information about prevention efforts within counties. Contact Strategies TA to learn more and be connected to prevention networks within counties or other organizations such as Child Abuse Prevention Councils or Family Resource Centers.

- [CalTrin: Comprehensive Prevention Planning Resources](#)
- [Strategies TA](#)

### Training

- [CA Early Childhood Online](#)

### Support

- Free Online Weekly Parents Anonymous® Groups are offered in English and Spanish for Parents statewide. Additional information and necessary resources are available at [www.caparentyouthhelpline.org](http://www.caparentyouthhelpline.org).
- [Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline](#) at 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453).

### Additional Information

Licensees and other partners are encouraged to share this PIN. If you have questions, please contact your local [Child Care Licensing Regional Office](#). The Department will communicate all new information to providers through PINs. Please [sign up](#) to be notified of new PINs and visit the [Department's website](#) for the latest information.