October 4, 2018

Re: Thank you for Making the Call

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is not only intended for Mandatory Reporters of child abuse and neglect, but also for all citizens. The message is simple: if you see something – say something. There is no better time than now to educate people within your organization and bring awareness to members of our community that child abuse and neglect exists – even right here in our own backyards.

The following organizations have partnered to stop childhood abuse and neglect in its tracks: Kane County State’s Attorney’s Office, Kane County Child Advocacy Center, Kane County Regional Office of Education, Illinois Department of Child and Family Services, and CASA Kane County. Each partner understands the need to be pro-active in the prevention of childhood abuse and neglect. Reacting to abuse and neglect after it occurs is no longer enough.

Did you know that in Kane County, there are more than 4,000 hotline calls made annually? This abuse knows no socio-economic barrier or ethnic group. Sadly, the youngest members of our community are impacted the most. Innocent children have no way to defend or protect themselves and sometimes the only thing standing between them and their perpetrators – is YOU.

Child abuse and neglect can be stopped through diligent leadership, you and community minded people who see something – say something. Educate your team members. Raise awareness in your community. Above all, encourage those who suspect abuse and neglect to call 1-800-25-ABUSE. If you suspect abuse or neglect, make the call.

Please visit the CASA Kane County website at www.casakanecounty.org to download the materials, listen to the podcasts, and spread the awareness that is so needed to help stop childhood abuse and neglect.

Warm Regards,

Gloria Kelley  
Executive Director  
CASA Kane County

Joseph M. McMahon  
State’s Attorney of  
Kane County

Patricia Dal Santo  
Regional Superintendent, Kane County  
Regional Office of Education
Who and what is a Mandated Reporter?

A Mandated Reporter is required by law to immediately report suspected child abuse if you have a reasonable belief that a child you know in your professional capacity is being abused or neglected.

Mandated Reporters are individuals who are working in one of the following seven fields:

1. School personnel
2. Medical personnel
3. Social services/mental health professionals
4. Law enforcement personnel
5. Coroner/Medical examiner personnel
6. Child care personnel
7. Members of the clergy


It doesn’t necessarily take a mandated reporter to do the right thing – make the hotline call today at 1-800-25-ABUSE.
How to become Mandated Reporting Certified?

There are three certified websites that you can visit for more information:


2. The Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE): www.kaneroe.org


Please visit casakanecountyuniversity.org/podcasts to listen to the Podcast by Joe McMahon and Lark Cowart from the Kane County State’s Attorney’s Office (CASA Podcast No. 38).
CASA Kane County, Regional Office of Education and the Kane County States Attorney’s Office are asking that you HELP us keep our children safe!

Please review the enclosed material in this packet and follow these easy steps in helping make life-changing decisions for a child who may have been abused and/or neglected!

IN THIS PACKET YOU WILL FIND:

1. Letter of Introduction From:
   - Joe McMahon, State’s Attorney - Kane County of Kane County;
   - Patricia Dal Santo, Regional Superintendent – Kane County Regional Office of Education; and
   - Gloria Kelley, Executive Director - CASA Kane County

2. Learn Who and What is a Mandated Reporter

3. Marketing Flyers and Information to Increase Awareness

4. Become a Certified Mandated Reporter

5. Podcast by Joe McMahon and Lark Cowart from the Kane County State’s Attorney (less than 20 minutes)

Need more information or want to download to share, then please go to: WWW.CASAKANECOUNTY.ORG
Working Together
Keeping children safe

CHILD ABUSE OR SUSPICION OF CHILD ABUSE? THAT MUST BE REPORTED!

Child Abuse is the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caretaker, someone living in the home or someone who works with children. This mistreatment may cause injury or harm or put the child at risk of injury or harm. Child abuse can be physical (bruises, burns or broken bones), sexual (fondling, penetration, exposure to pornography, or incest) or emotional. Neglect happens when a parent or responsible caretaker fails to provide adequate supervision, food, clothing, shelter, medical care or other basics for a child.

Our Children Need You to Have the Courage to Call Today!

1-800-25-ABUSE
(1-800-252-2873)

Then what happens?

When a hotline call is made, questions will be asked to determine whether to take a formal report. If a formal report is taken, a DCFS Investigation Specialist will begin the investigation.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

DCFS receives, investigates and acts upon a report of child abuse or neglect every five minutes, child sex abuse every hour, and the death of a child by abuse or neglect every day and a half. Thanks to a wide-range of services, fewer than one in 25 children are removed from the home, and half return home within a year.

630-844-8400 - Aurora Field Office
847-888-7620 - Elgin Field Office
www.state.il.us/dcf

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

CASAs are trained volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court system. Advocates spend time with the children, families, teachers, therapists, and medical professionals. The information gathered is then reported to the Judge toward ensuring a safe, permanent home for each child.

630-232-4484 / www.casakane.org

Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

The CAC serves children in Kane County who have been sexually or severely physically abused. As a division of the States Attorneys Office, investigations will be conducted using multidisciplinary teams of professionals to minimize the stress to the child and ensure that effective treatment is available to every child who has experienced abuse.

630-208-5160 / www.co.kane.il.us/sao

Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE)

The ROE advocates for education, provides leadership, performs regulatory functions, and coordinates state and local services for educators, school districts, and the community. The ROE supports the educational programs of Kane County by overseeing the nine districts in the county and coordinating and collaborating with efforts in our schools. Keeping Kids Safe is everyone’s responsibility and the Regional Office of Education is a collaborative partner!

630-232-5963 / www.kaneroe.org

Working together to protect and support the children of Kane County!

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.”
-John F. Kennedy
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING A HOTLINE CALL?
EVERYONE.
WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL?
IMMEDIATELY.
1-800-25-ABUSE

Take no chances in reporting suspected child abuse or neglect. You risk nothing; they could lose everything.

When a call is made, a hotline social worker will listen to the report. The worker will ask questions and gather enough information to determine whether to take a formal report. If a formal report is taken, a child protection investigator will begin the investigation within 24 hours – much sooner if the child is considered in immediate risk of harm.
For an abuse or neglected child, life can be...

TERRIFYING
LONELY
CONFUSING

To report child abuse or suspicion of child abuse
Call 1-800-25-ABUSE
Do you think I deserve a happy childhood?
I want to feel...

PROTECTED
ADORED
IMPORTANT

To report child abuse or suspicion of child abuse
Call 1-800-25-ABUSE

www.casakanecounty.org
Abused and neglected children are made to feel invisible. Life is...

UNSAFE
FRUSTRATING
HOPELESS

To report child abuse or suspicion of child abuse
Call 1-800-25-ABUSE