

Los Angeles County
Department of Children and Family Services

**Team Conference
Understanding of Confidentiality**

Family Name: _____ Date: _____

Welcome to the Team Conference concerning the above family. We are glad you are able to join us. This meeting is being held today for parents, family members, family support, invited community members, and DCFS staff. All participants have either been invited by the family or are able to provide an important resource. We are here to decide on a plan to protect, place or provide for the children, and, if possible, preserve and/or reunite the family.

We may be discussing some sensitive issues and ask that you respect the family's right to privacy. It is important that you agree to abide by the rules of confidentiality. Information about minor children is confidential by law. Anything discussed during the meeting must not be repeated, either directly or indirectly, outside of the meeting, except by DCFS staff and service providers in the course of implementing the plan and reporting to the Court. Information on mandated reporting will be provided to you.

Parents: By signing below, you agree to allow the participants listed below to remain in your meeting.

All non-DCFS Participants: By remaining in the meeting and signing below, you agree to keeping confidential all information discussed at this Conference. Please sign your name and indicate your relationship to the family below. Thank you.

Name:	Relationship:
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____

Who is considered a Mandated Reporter?

According to California law, Penal Code Section 1166(a) (the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act):

A mandated reporter is a person who is required to report known or suspected instances of child abuse and neglect to the Los Angeles County Child Protection Hotline. The following people are mandated reporters: Child Protective Service Workers, Child Visitation Monitors, Foster Care Workers, School Personnel, Clergymen, Mental Health Professionals, Psychologists, Substance Abuse Counselors, Physicians, Nurses, Medical Examiners, Hospital Personnel, Dentists, Marriage and Family Therapists and Interns, Peace Officers, Law Enforcement Officers, District Attorneys, and Day Care Workers. In cases where there has been a child who has been physically and or mentally abused, or where there have been criminal acts involving the child, cross reporting is made to law enforcement.

What are the responsibilities of a Mandated Reporter?

A mandated reporter shall make a report to an agency (DCFS), specified in Section 1165.9, whenever the mandated reporter, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonable suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. Reasonable suspicion means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable suspicion for a person in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect. Pregnancy of a minor does not, in and or itself, constitute a basis for a reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse.