



July 2018

Provisions for Discretionary Reporters in PC 11164-11174.3

A discretionary reporter is any individual, not mandated by law, who reports suspected child abuse or neglect.

Who May Report (PC 11166 (g))

“Any other person who has knowledge of or observes a child whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been a victim of child abuse or neglect may report the known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect to an agency specified in Section 11165.9. For purposes of this section, “any other person” includes a mandated reporter who acts in his or her private capacity and not in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment.”

May report anonymously (PC 11167 (f))

“Persons who may report child abuse pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 11166 are not required to give their names.” (Discretionary reporters are encouraged, however, to give their names. If the name is given to the reporting agencies, it is to be confidential (PC 11167 (d)), except to those listed in this subdivision.)

Immunity from law suits (PC 11172 (a))

“...any other person reporting a known or suspected instance of child abuse or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect shall not incur civil or criminal liability as a result of any report unless it can be proven that a false report was made...”

A Child Abuse Report Must be taken by Police or County Welfare Department (PC 11165.9)

“...Agencies that are required to receive reports of suspected child abuse or neglect may not refuse to accept a report of suspected child abuse or neglect from a mandated reporter or another person unless otherwise authorized pursuant to this section, and shall maintain a record of all reports received.”

A reporting agency in Contra Costa County is either:

Children and Family Services at 877-881-1116 or Law Enforcement at 911. Both agencies can be called 24/7.