

Chapter 8

CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONAL MANADATED REPORTING IN OPEN CASES

8-1. Mandated Reporting. Section [39.201\(1\)\(a\)](#), F.S., requires “any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child’s welfare, as defined in this chapter, or that a child is need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care shall report such knowledge or suspicion.” All child welfare professionals shall make reports to the Hotline using any of the reporting means available (via telephone, facsimile, Florida Relay Services or on-line reporting).

a. During an investigation or ongoing services, any new incident of abuse, neglect, abandonment or exploitation of a child that occurs must be reported. An insufficient safety plan or a continuation of family conditions associated with the danger threats are not a basis for a call to the hotline

b. During an investigation or ongoing services, when it is learned that a non-maltreating parent in a separate household is known or suspected to be responsible for maltreatment the child welfare professional must make a report to the hotline. When the hotline intake is accepted, separate FFA-Investigations will be developed by the CPI.

c. During ongoing services, when a non-maltreating parent is assessed and it is determined that they meet the criteria for abandonment, an FFA-Ongoing will be developed by the case manager unless the child is suspected to be in present or impending danger. If the child is suspected to be in present or impending danger, a report to the hotline will be made.

d. If a child is suspected to be in present danger, the case manager must take immediate actions to determine if safety plan modifications are needed to manage the danger threats. Requirements in CFOP [170-7](#), paragraph 2-3 must be followed. A situation involving present danger does not in-and-of itself necessitate a report to the hotline. When the case manager resolves a situation involving present danger and determines that there is not a new incident of child abuse, neglect, abandonment or exploitation, a Present Danger Assessment will be documented per CFOP [170-7](#), paragraph 2-3h.

8-2. Providing Name of Reporter. The child welfare professional must provide their name when they are a social worker as defined in s. [39.01\(71\)](#), F.S., “any person who has a bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree in social work.”

a. When the professional making a report provides their name as required or by choice, it will afford the investigator assigned to conduct the investigation an opportunity to conduct a more thorough follow-up interview.

b. The name of any person reporting child abuse, abandonment, or neglect may not be released to any person other than employees of the department responsible for child protective services, the Florida Abuse Hotline, law enforcement, the child protection team, or the appropriate state attorney, without the written consent of the person reporting.

8-3. Safety Planning. A child welfare professional making a report on a family they are investigating or responsible for in ongoing case management shall act immediately to create or modify any existing safety plan as needed to protect the child per safety planning requirements in CFOP 170-7, [Chapter 11](#).

8-4. Present Danger Assessment. When a case manager has assessed a present danger situation and as a result does not suspect that a new incident of child maltreatment has occurred, a Present

Danger Assessment should be documented. The case manager's assessment of present danger is further described in CFOP 170-7, [Chapter 2](#), paragraph 2-3.