



**COLORADO**  
Department of Human Services

# **Yolanda Arredondo**

## **Colorado Division of Child Welfare**

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**CO4Kids.org**



## Learning Objectives

**Develop more awareness for when and where to call. Review child abuse and neglect definitions.**

**Empower participants to discuss their response to suspected child abuse and neglect.**



CO4Kids  
FAQs

## When should I call the hotline?

**Harm has occurred** - a child/youth has been subjected to abuse or neglect.

**Danger exists** - the child/youth being subjected to circumstances or conditions that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect.



## When should I consider alternatives to calling the hotline?

No harm has occurred and No dangerous circumstances or conditions exist.

Family is experiencing a lack of resources, not neglect.

No abuse or neglect is occurring, however don't agree with parenting choices.

CO4Kids

Child Abuse

Prevention Toolkit



## What if I'm worried about family circumstances?

A person required to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect shall not make a report due (solely) to a family's or child's race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or disability status.

Per Colorado Revised Statute 19-3-304



CO4Kids

Professional Resources

## How long do I have to make a mandatory report?

As soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 24 hours after receiving the information.

## Where do I call to make a mandatory report?

- The county the family resides
- The State Hotline  
1-844-CO-4-KIDS
- Local law enforcement

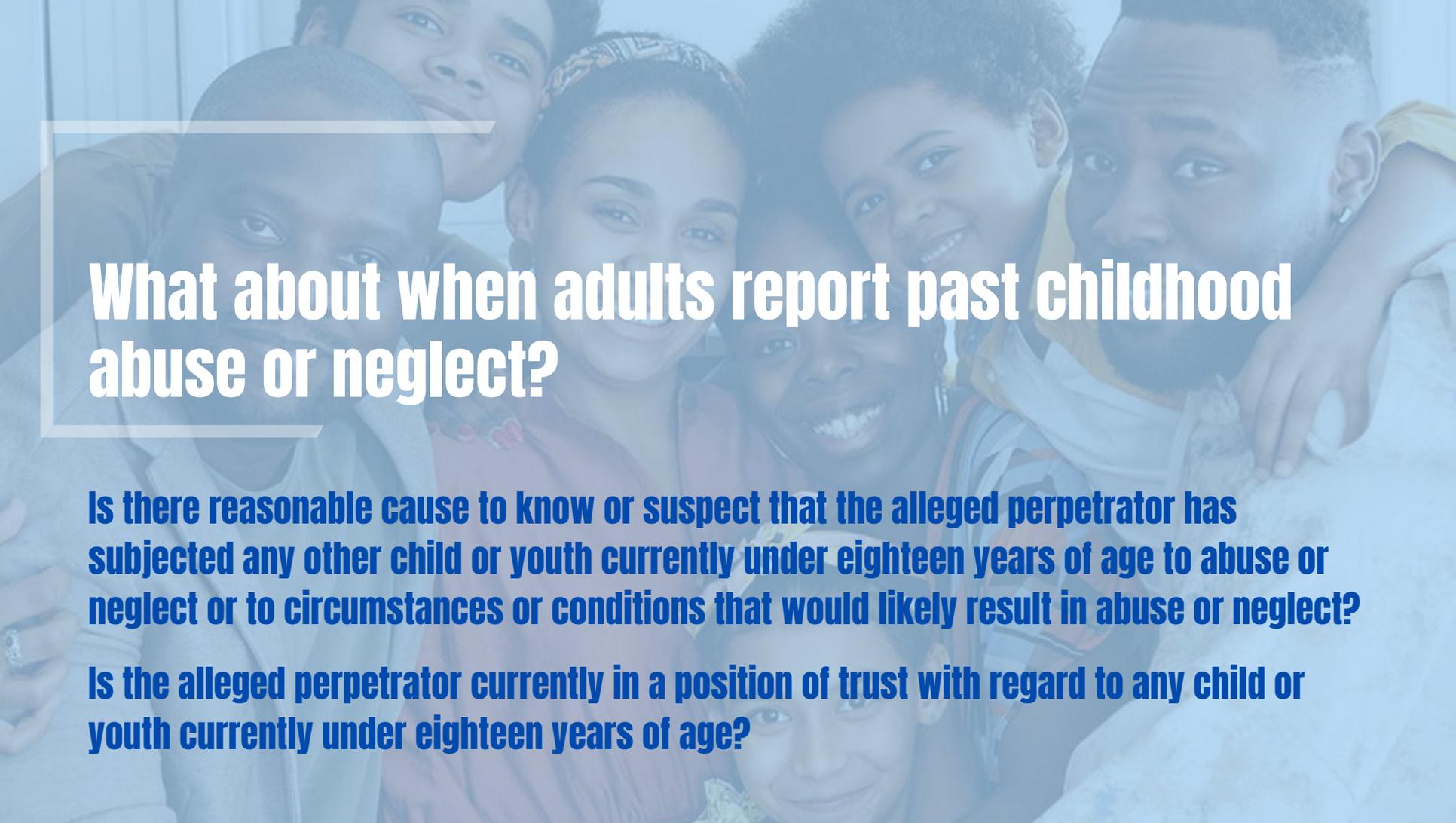
## What if I learn of suspected abuse or neglect outside of my professional capacity?

The mandate to report does not apply if the person learns of the suspected abuse or neglect outside of the person's professional capacity that would require the person to make a report



## Can I delegate making a report to another mandatory reporter?

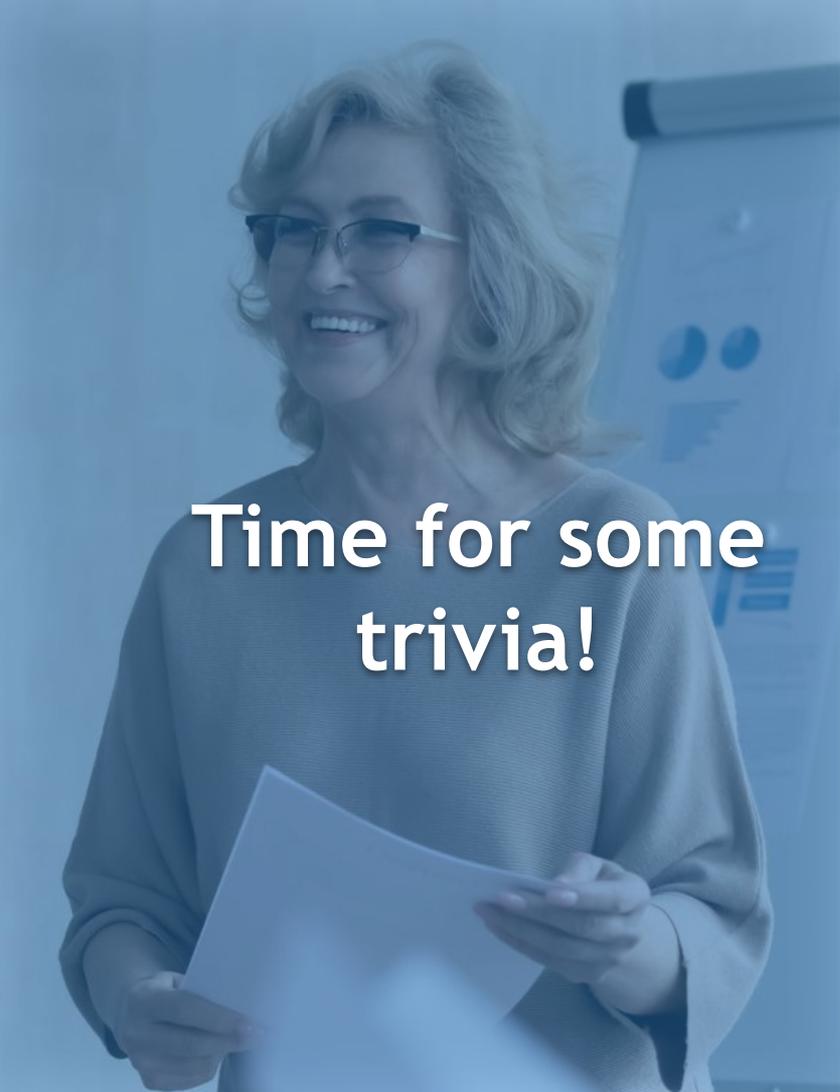
A person specified required to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect shall not delegate the duty to make the report required to another person who does not have firsthand knowledge of the suspected child abuse or neglect.



# What about when adults report past childhood abuse or neglect?

**Is there reasonable cause to know or suspect that the alleged perpetrator has subjected any other child or youth currently under eighteen years of age to abuse or neglect or to circumstances or conditions that would likely result in abuse or neglect?**

**Is the alleged perpetrator currently in a position of trust with regard to any child or youth currently under eighteen years of age?**

A woman with blonde hair and glasses is smiling and looking to her right. She is holding a white sheet of paper. In the background, there is a whiteboard with some faint blue markings. The entire image has a light blue overlay.

## Time for some trivia!

**Question #1:** On average how many calls does the hotline system to report suspected child abuse and neglect in Colorado receive each year?

**Question #2:** What percentage of reports are made by mandatory reporters to the hotline system to report suspected child abuse and neglect in Colorado?

**Question #3:** How many professions and/or individuals are identified in Colorado's mandatory reporter law who are required to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect?

Examples: Psychologist \* Physician \* Veterinarian



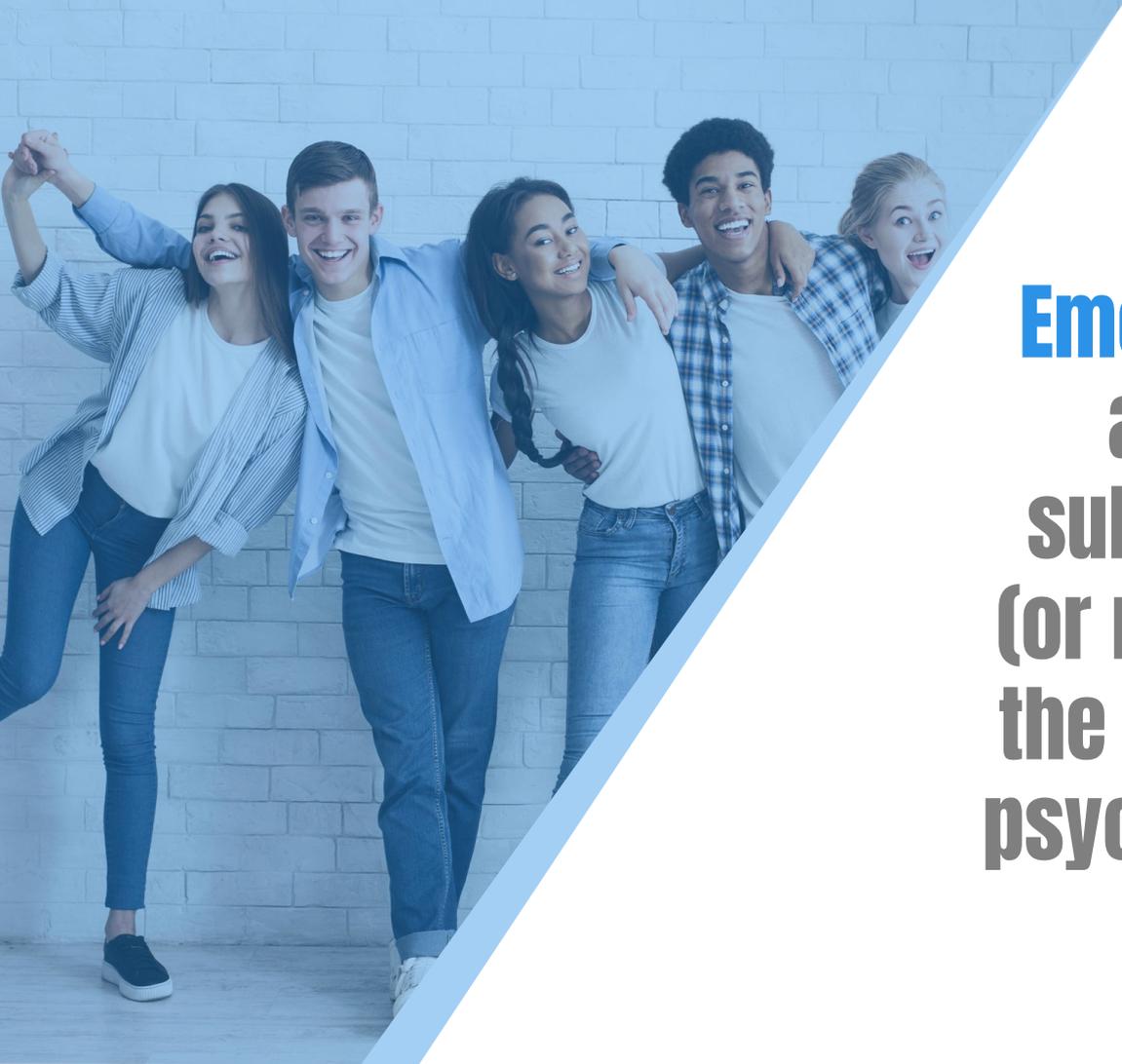
## **Physical Injury** \*non-accidental

**Any case in which a child exhibits evidence of skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, failure to thrive, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, or death.**



## Neglect

When the child's parents, legal guardian, or custodian fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision.



**Emotional abuse** means an identifiable and substantial impairment (or risk of impairment) of the child's intellectual or psychological functioning or development.

# Injurious Environment

Any case in which a child's environment is injurious to their safety, health, or welfare.

Examples include:

- Accessible unsecured substances
- Caregiver driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Animal feces or urine creating toxins



# Sexual Abuse



Any case in which a child is subject to unlawful sexual behavior as defined in Colorado Revised Statute § 16-22-102 (9).

Helps to describe the the signs and behaviors observed and how connected to concerns about sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse includes activities such as fondling a child or youth's genitals, penetration, incest, sexual assault, indecent exposure, enticement of a child, unlawful electroic sexual communication, and promotion of obscenity to a minor.

## Consultation and Information Sharing Framework

### Reason for Referral; Danger/Harm

- Detail re: incident(s) Bringing the family to the attention of the agency. Impact on child(ren).
- Pattern/history

### Risk Statements

- Risk to child(ren)
- Context of risk

### Complicating Factors

- Condition/behaviors that contribute to greater difficulty for the family
- Presence of research based risk factors

GENOGRAM/ECOMAP  
Cultural considerations

(Gray Area)

### Next Steps

Current Ranking

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

(Immediate Progress)  
Safety/Protection  
Required

- Development of next steps relevant to risk context
- What
- Who
- When
- Etc.

### Goal Statements

- Bottom lines
- Enough safety to close

### Safety

- Actions of protection, taken by the caregiver, that mitigate the risk, demonstrated over time
- Strengths demonstrated as protection over time

### Strengths/Protective Factors

- Assets, resources, capacities within family, individual/community
- Presence of research based protective factors

### Purpose/Focus of Consultation

- What is the worker/team looking for in this consult?

Lohrbach (2000)

Partnering: Action w/family in their position: willingness, confidence, capacity



Caregiver Substance Use  
& Domestic Violence



Child Functioning, Discipline  
Practices & Supervision



Living Situation & Protective Capacities



Medical & Mental Health Needs

**30%** of reports are assigned to  
a **caseworker** for **assessment**

**Safety** assessed  
of more than  
**50,000** children  
and youth each  
year

**What is being assessed when a caseworker is assigned?**

# Types of Child Welfare Assessments

**Child Protection** - safety allegations

**Youth in Conflict** - beyond the control of a parent or court ordered

**Institutional Abuse/Neglect** - licensed

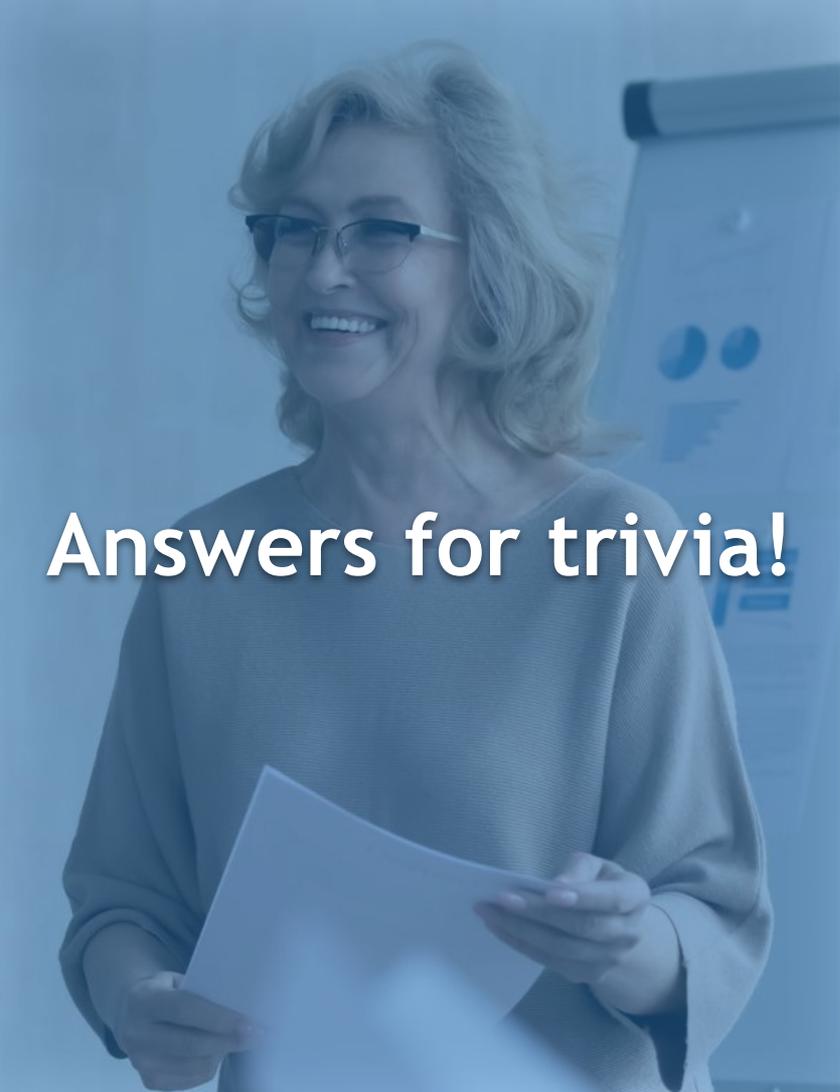
# Types of Assessment Findings

**High Risk Assessments** (HRA) and **Institutional** results in a finding based on a preponderance of evidence standard

Unfounded \* Inconclusive \* Founded

**Family Assessment Response** (FAR) and **Youth in Conflict** assessments have no finding





## Answers for trivia!

**Question #1:** On average how many calls does the hotline system to report suspected child abuse and neglect in Colorado receive each year? **210,696**

**Question #2:** What percentage of reports are made by mandatory reporters to the hotline system to report suspected child abuse and neglect in Colorado? **74%**

**Question #3:** How many professions and/or individuals are identified in Colorado's mandatory reporter law who are required to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect? **39**



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**THANK YOU.**  
**Questions?**



Online Mandated Reporter Training  
[www.coloradocwts.com](http://www.coloradocwts.com)

Child Abuse and Neglect FAQs  
Questions [www.co4kids.org/faq/faqs](http://www.co4kids.org/faq/faqs)