

QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED BY PARTICIPANTS

My agency/organization does not offer transportation. When children are left after closing time for an unreasonably extended period, parents and approved contacts cannot be reached and there is no other recourse, what should I do about transporting the child to a safe location?

There are no state rules that specifically address this issue. It is suggested that agencies and organizations determine what their policy/procedure will be and put the information in their policy book and share with staff at orientation and periodically throughout the year.

Where should the child care center or agency keep documentation related to suspected maltreatment?

For child care centers documentation should be kept in the center bound medical log book. Child and youth organizations/agencies should have a written policy for filing and maintaining documentation in a secure place.

Do I have to inform my licensing specialist that I made a report to CPS about suspected child maltreatment?

Child care centers and agencies regulated by BRL are required to report suspected abuse to the licensing office (in addition to CPS) if the suspected maltreater is a staff member of the center. Otherwise, centers and agencies are not required to report CPS reports to the licensing office.

When is a child old enough to stay at home alone? What is appropriate age to allow a child to start babysitting?

There are no straightforward answers to these questions. Wisconsin does not specify an age requirement for babysitters or leaving children home alone. There are many factors to be considered when choosing a babysitter and or deciding to leave a child home alone. All children develop at their own rate and with their own special needs and abilities. Some children are responsible, intelligent, and independent enough to be left alone at 12 or 13 years of age. On the other hand, there are some teenagers who are too irresponsible or who have special needs that limit their ability to be safe if they are left alone. Parents and guardians need to make intelligent and reasonable decisions regarding these matters. Please click on the link to review considerations for leaving [Children home alone](#).

Will my name or place of employment be revealed to the family or alleged perpetrator?

Your name is confidential and is not given out. However, if there is a hearing or trial you may have to testify in court as a witness.

Outside of my job, what if I see an instance of abuse, like a parent hitting a child in a grocery store?

There are not any easy answers to this question. If you do not know the identity of the parent and child, you may not be able to report your concern. However, you might be able to help diffuse the situation by saying something supportive to the parent while encouraging him or her to stop the abusive behavior. In cases where you believe the child is in imminent danger, you should request the attention of store security and management and call 911.

If the parent is not the suspected perpetrator should I call him/her before making a report to CPS or law enforcement?

No, in most cases CPS would like to receive the report first. After calling and making the report you can ask CPS if you should call the parent.

Do I have to report suspicions of abuse relayed to me by someone else (third party report)?

Although anyone can call in suspicions of abuse, you are not required to report third party reports of child maltreatment. It is always best that the person who receives the disclosure or suspects the abuse make the report to CPS.

My employer's policy is to report suspicions of child maltreatment to my supervisor. What should I do if my supervisor does not agree with my suspicions and does not follow through with making a report?

Call the report in yourself. As a mandated reporter you are accountable for making the call and reporting the incident to CPS. Passing the responsibility to your supervisor will not discharge you of your legal obligation.

Questions/Answers for Trainers/Facilitators:

How long is the b SCAN-MRT presentation?

- The web-based TOT program is approximately 90 minutes.
- It takes approximately 3 hours to facilitate a face-to-face presentation, which includes time for a 10-15 minute break and questions for answers.

How can I get people interested in taking the training?

- Make telephone calls and send letters to your area schools, child care centers, child and youth serving agencies, and etc. On the opening page, under Print Materials see the sample training letter template.
- Coordinate training in collaboration with your local child care resource and referral agency, family resource center, Child Protective Services and law enforcement agencies, and etc.

Where can I get funding to support training services?

- Incorporate a plan to provide SCAN-MRT presentations into large grant proposals or write for local and state mini grants.
- Charge a minimal amount per participant to cover agency overhead costs.