

Know Your Mandatory Reporting Requirements

This course will help practitioners who are subject to reporting requirements associated with child abuse, elder abuse, spouse abuse, and duty to warn about violence. Increasingly these requirements ensnarl mental health professionals into difficult ethical dilemmas as they navigate the obligation to maintain confidentiality on the one hand, and meet the expectations of reporting laws on the other. Several factors are considered, including the variable state laws governing the duty to report, the need to report in a timely fashion, the intricacies of the reporting process (e.g. to whom, containing what information, etc.), and the ongoing concern about adverse consequences to clients and others (including oneself). Given these complexities, this topic has become essential knowledge for practicing clinicians. This course uses legal case studies, and hypothetical situations to highlight the critical nuanced knowledge needed to manage mandatory reporting requirements.

Target Audience

Psychologists
Therapists
Social Workers
Psychiatrists
Counselors
Nurses
Course level: Intermediate

Learning Objectives

At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the genesis of the law requiring mandated reporting.
2. Compare and contrast the distinctions of mandatory reporting of child abuse, elder abuse, spouse abuse, and duty to warn of violence.
3. Explain the components of the law pertaining to child abuse perpetrator act, the categories of abuse, exclusions from reporting, and immunity from liability.
4. Compare and contrast various state law variations in child abuse reporting laws; especially the Pennsylvania and California statutes.
5. Name three criteria for clinical assessment of child abuse or neglect indicators.

Seminar Schedule

Typically begins at 1PM and ends at 4:15 Eastern time. There is one 15 minute break. However, check the webinar schedule.

Outline

Begin 1 PM ET
Introduction to the essential balance
History of Mandatory Reporting requirements
Parallel to Tarasoff reporting requirement
Statutory Negligence requires a special relationship
Common law vs. Statutory Negligence
Statutory Definitions of abuse
Scope of reporting:
Parallels to duty to warn of violence, but also elder abuse, spouse abuse, etc.
Special issues
Reporting past abuse (historical abuse)
Teen sex behavior exemption
Role of internet and sexual abuse of children
Psychical abuse as discipline
Mandatory vs Voluntary reporting
Psychologists, lawyers, teachers, and other mental health
Break 2:30-2:45 PM ET
Exemptions to mandatory reporting
Researcher exemption
Forensic examiner exemption (attorney work product agency)
Responsibilities for reporting (with special emphasis on Pennsylvania)
The reporting process
To whom and how quickly are reports made
Child welfare services, who are they
What happens after a report is made
Assessment of child abuse and neglect: a decision model
a. Interview
b. Documentation
c. How to talk to a child after they report
End 4:15 PM ET

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The Presenter

Lawrence J. Raifman, Ph.D., J.D. earned his Ph.D and J.D. in clinical psychology and J.D. in law from the University of Arizona in 1981. He spent the early years of his career working as a legal associate at Piper and Marbury before becoming Director, Department of Psychology at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center, and the Maryland state hospital for the criminally insane. There, as Director and Co-Director of the Pre-trial forensic evaluation program, Dr. Raifman co-led a program that evaluated hundreds of defendants on issues of competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, etc. He later became Director of Forensic Services at the Springfield State Hospital Center, a regional state hospital in Maryland. Dr. Raifman has maintained a private practice in clinical and forensic psychology throughout his career. For more than twenty years, Dr. Raifman has been an adjunct clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Johns Hopkins University. There, he has taught courses in forensics psychology. Over the years, Dr. Raifman has provided clinical supervision and training for many psychologists, and designed forensic evaluation programs. In his private practice, he has worked with families, children, teenagers, and adults, and forensic matters. He has testified in court many times as a forensic expert.

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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Phil Rich, LICSW, Daphne Fatter, Ph.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2025.

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