

# 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      Social Workers      Counselors  
Therapists      Psychiatrists      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

The webinar outline is attached. See the Live Webinar page for the start and end times.

## 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., Laura Davie, LICSW, Tina Jenkins, Psy.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2028.

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tzkseminars, LLC  
168 West Lake Drive  
Annapolis, Md. 21403