









# Mandated Reporter Training: Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Maltreatment/Neglect

## Reasonable Cause to Suspect: Scenario D

You have recently developed concerns about Susan, a developmentally delayed ten-year-old child in your after-school program. Susan has always been a pleasant child, but now she cries easily. She has been grabbing the genitalia of her classmates, a behavior she has never done before, and she refuses to participate in school activities, even in arts and crafts, which she loved before. The teacher calls her mother, who is unconcerned and feels Susan is just in a “bad mood.” You learn that Susan’s maternal uncle is now in the home and takes care of Susan when her mother goes to work. Susan has refused to talk about the uncle or why she is so sad. Susan’s verbal skills are very limited.

- What indicators are present?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Is there reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Is there a parent or other person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What are your next steps?



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## Evaluating Your Response

*Please evaluate the following cases and rate them by category.*

**Category A** This should be left to the family.

**Category B** Assistance to seek community agency or resource as appropriate.

**Category C** Report to State Central Register (SCR).

**Category D** Call the police immediately.

**Case 1** Juanita, age eight, stole some small articles from the local drug store. Her mother spanked her, leaving welts and bruises.

**Case 2** Mrs. Hughes arrives at the day care center to pick up her two children in her car. The mother appears to be intoxicated. The staff detects alcohol on her breath, and she staggers when she walks. She is agitated at the staff for not getting her children ready to leave fast enough.

**Case 3** You allowed Mrs. Martin to let her child age four enroll in your program as long as her daughter gets up-to-date with her shots within the first three months. Three months have passed, and Mrs. Martin has not gotten her daughter the remaining shots.

**Case 4** Mrs. Young is a divorced woman with three children under school age. She is fond of her children and gives them good physical care. She is sexually promiscuous, however, and often has men staying overnight at her apartment.



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## Reasonable Cause to Suspect: Answer Key

### **SCENARIO A**

- **What indicators are present?**  
Right leg appears painful.
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**  
No
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**  
Not at this time
- **What are your next steps?**  
Discuss concern with parents. Review situation with your supervisor. Document all your activities in the case record.

### **SCENARIO B**

- **What indicators are present?**  
Bruises, scrapes
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**  
No, the story is consistent with a bike injury. Injuries sustained in an accidental fall would be along one side of the child's body.
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**  
No
- **What are your next steps?**  
Treat child's injuries.

### **SCENARIO C**

- **What indicators are present?**  
Disclosure, lack of supervision  
Inadequate guardianship (failure to provide a minimum degree of care)
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**  
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**  
Mother
- **What are your next steps?**  
Call in report to SCR.

### **SCENARIO D**

- **What indicators are present?**  
Change in child's behavior: quiet, withdrawn, cries easily. Sexual behaviors inappropriate for the child's age; promiscuous behavior; lack of trust with significant others; refusal to talk to teacher.
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**  
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**  
Maternal uncle  
Mother for failure to protect the child
- **What are your next steps?**  
Call in report to SCR.



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## Evaluating Your Response Answer Key

**Category A** This should be left to the family.

**Category B** Assistance to seek community agency or resource as appropriate.

**Category C** Report to State Central Register (SCR).

**Category D** Call the police immediately.

**Case 1** C — Report this to the SCR.

**Case 2** D, then C — Call the police immediately (the children could be in danger), then call the SCR.

**Case 3** B — This is a regulatory violation only.

**Case 4** A — This should be left to the family.