



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

## Reasonable Cause to Suspect: Scenario A

A female student, 15, has come to you and disclosed that she has been engaging in sexual intercourse with her mother's 38-year-old boy friend for the past two months. The boyfriend has resided in the home with the child and her mother for the past five years and is responsible for the care of the child when the mother is at work.

- 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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## Reasonable Cause to Suspect: Scenario D

A special education teacher observes how Susan, a severely developmentally delayed 14-year-old student, changed her behavior lately. Susan cries often, grabs at the genitalia of her classmates, and she refuses to participate in school activities, even in arts and crafts, which she loved before. The teacher calls her mother, who states that Susan is just in a “bad mood.” The teacher also finds out 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 her uncle or why she is upset. Susan’s verbal skills are very limited and she might require an interpreter.

- 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, causing bruises and welts.

**Case 2** Rasheem, age 12, has missed 37 days of school so far this year. It is February, and you are concerned he will be held back because of this. Rasheem had attendance problems and failed last year. When making a home visit, you find him home with numerous younger siblings who are fighting and injuring each other. Rasheem cannot control them and the situation is chaotic and alarmingly out of control. Rasheem has no idea where his mother is or when she will return.

**Case 3** At times, the Shaw girls come to school appearing to be hungry. On numerous occasions they have no lunch. The days they do have lunch, it is often not enough. Other than this, the girls are well loved and cared for. The girls are typically quiet, private children, but in talking to them you learn that their father does seasonal work and is often between jobs. Your school offers a breakfast and lunch program that the family might qualify for.

**Case 4** Keisha age 12 and D'ante age 10 recently missed two weeks of school when their grandmother took them to Disney World. The children are both excellent students and should not have a problem catching up on the work they missed.



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## Reasonable Cause to Suspect: Answer Key

### **SCENARIO A**

- **What indicators are present?**  
Sexual abuse and verbal disclosure (non-accidental)
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**  
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**  
38-year-old boyfriend (an adult living in the home)
- **What are your next steps?**  
Call in report to SCR.

### **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 usually 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?**  
Provide appropriate first aid. If agency policy requires, notify the parents.

### **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 or mother
- **What are your next steps?**
  - Call in report to SCR.
  - Include any relevant information regarding child's developmental status.



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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 — The situation is chaotic and out of control.  
Call the police and then the SCR.

**Case 3** B — Provide a referral to the school lunch program.

**Case 4** A — The situation does not require any intervention at this point.