



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

Reasonable Cause to Suspect: Scenario B

You are investigating a case involving a 15-year-old female who was raped by her 21-year-old neighbor. When meeting with the teenager to prepare her for the upcoming trial, she discloses that when she was seven her father molested her. She never told her mother, or anyone else, about the abuse, as her father threatened to harm her mother and kill the family's pet dog if she did.

- 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 C

You are called to a home for a domestic disturbance. When you arrive, you find a mother assaulted by the father. During the altercation, mother was bruised and furniture and broken glass were strewn all over the living room and dining room area. The three children (ages 5, 9, and 12) witnessed their mother being assaulted by their father. Although the children were not physically injured, they were noticeably upset and frightened.

- 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).

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

Case 2 Ms. Lombardi walks into the police station asking to speak to someone. She alleges that when her children (ages 5, 7, and 11) visit their father on weekends, he spanks them if they misbehave. She acknowledges that the children are not bruised, but she is visibly angry and upset and wants to press charges and have the father arrested.

Case 3 You respond to a call of possible family disturbance. Upon your arrival, you find 12-year-old Rasheem home with five younger siblings, and the situation is chaotic and out of control. Rasheem has no idea where his mother is or when she will return.

Case 4 You find the Russell family living in their car in a parking lot. They have two children ages four and six. They have no relatives in town. The parents tell you that they have been there for two days while the father looks for work. They use the local gas station for the bathroom, collect bottles to buy food, and run the car periodically to keep it warm.



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Reasonable Cause to Suspect: Answer Key

SCENARIO A

- **What indicators are present?**
Sexual abuse and verbal disclosure
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**
28-year-old boyfriend and mother
- **What are your next steps?**
Call in report to SCR

SCENARIO B

- **What indicators are present?**
Sexual abuse and verbal disclosure
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**
Father
- **What are your next steps?**
Call in report to SCR

SCENARIO C

- **What indicators are present?**
Domestic violence
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**
Father
- **What are your next steps?**
Call in report to SCR

SCENARIO D

- **What indicators are present?**
Drugs, weapons, criminal activity
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**
Father
- **What are your next steps?**
Make a report to the 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).

Case 1 C

Case 2 A

Case 3 C

Case 4 B