

Child and Family Well-Being

The new Child and Family Well-Being Child Department just launched their online reporting for suspected child abuse in San Diego County.

Here is how it works.....for non-emergency (no immediate threat)

The screenshot shows the 'Report Suspected Child Abuse in San Diego County' landing page. At the top left are the logos for the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency and Live Well San Diego. A language selection dropdown and 'Powered by Google Translate' are on the top right. The main content area has a blue background with white text. On the left, it says 'Report Suspected Child Abuse in San Diego County' and 'Online Reports: Mandated reporters are now able to submit non-urgent reports online without needing to call the Child Abuse Hotline or submit a follow-up written report. You must complete a safety questionnaire to determine if your report is non-urgent. To begin, you must have an account through our Mandated Reporter Application (MRA)'. On the right, there is a 'Sign In' form with fields for 'E-mail' and 'Password', a 'Continue' button, and links for 'New user? Sign Up' and 'Forgot your password? Reset Password'. Below this is a 'Report by phone' section with the text 'Mandated reporters may call the San Diego County Child Abuse Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to file any suspected child abuse report.' and two phone numbers: '+1 (858) 560-2191' and '+1 (800) 344-6000 (Toll Free)'. A small 'Privacy - Terms' icon is in the bottom right corner.

Go to:

<https://cosdapps.sandiegocounty.gov/CFWB/LandingPage>

1. Click on "Sign Up" to create a new user account (*use work email address*)
2. Check your email and follow the instructions in the email to register
3. Click "File New Report Online"

When you file the report online, you answer 12 questions. If what you are reporting is considered to be an urgent/immediate threat, it will tell you to call and file a verbal report. If not, you fill it out online and submit it; you do NOT need to call it in.

If you need to call it in, the worker will submit the written report. The phone call AND written report are done at the same time by the worker on the phone.

Also, once you create your account, you will have access to your "Dashboard" so you can see the status of the report.

File New Reporting Online

Complete the Safety Questionnaire. These are the screening questions:

Before you start filling out a new report, it is necessary to answer a few safety qualifying questions.



1. Does the child require immediate medical or mental health evaluation or care?

- a. Consider the following questions to help you select yes or no to this question. If the answer is yes to any of the questions below, select yes to this question. If no, consider any other factors not captured below before selecting no.
- i. Consider if the parent is unable or unwilling to seek appropriate help or will not control the child's behaviors and:
 1. Has the child attempted or threatened suicide?
 2. Has the child cut themselves or are they having other self-harmful behaviors?
 3. Has the child exhibited violent behaviors towards others involving weapons?
 4. Has the child made threats of violence that involve weapons and there is reason to believe the child will carry out the threat (i.e. access to weapons?)
 5. Has the child been violent towards very young or other vulnerable children?
 6. Has the child been torturing or killing animals?
 7. Has the child exhibited fire-setting behaviors?
 8. Has the parent/caregiver failed to provide medical care for an acute or chronic condition? If yes, is the child requiring or is likely to require hospitalization or surgery? Or can the condition worsen to the extent that unnecessary permanent disability, disfigurement, or death results?

2. Is the caregiver's behavior alleged to be cruel, bizarre, dangerous, or threatening to the child's immediate physical/medical health, or safety?

- a. Consider the following questions to help you select yes or no to this question. If the answer is yes to any of the questions below, select yes to this question. If no, consider any other factors not captured below before selecting no.
- i. Has the child been hit with a closed fist?
 - ii. Has the child been hit in the head, back, or abdomen with substantial force?
 - iii. Is there strangulation, kicking, or hitting with a belt buckle or other dangerous objects?
 - iv. Is the child being punished with restraints?
 - v. Is the child being poisoned?

- vi. Are there other actions that could reasonably result in severe injury to the child?

3. Is the caregiver's behavior alleged to be cruel, bizarre, dangerous, or threatening to the child's immediate emotional health or safety?

- a. *Consider the following questions to help you select yes or no to this question. If the answer is yes to any of the questions below, select yes to this question. If no, consider any other factors not captured below before selecting no.*
 - i. Is the caregiver harming themselves, others, or pets in the child's presence?
 - ii. Is the caregiver threatening to harm themselves, others, or the child's pet?
 - iii. Is the caregiver using unusual forms of discipline that rely on humiliation, fear, and intimidation?
 - iv. Is the caregiver showing extreme rejection of the child? For example, are they not speaking to the child for extended periods of time? Are they acting as if the child is not present for long periods, beyond what would be appropriate for the child's age/developmental status?
 - v. Are there domestic violence incidents that involve weapons or strangulation? Has the domestic violence resulted in serious injury to any adult? Has the child attempted to intervene? Has the child been directly in the path of violence?

4. Is the primary alleged victim child under 2 years of age (or developmentally equivalent) or was a child under 2 directly involved/at risk during the incident?

5. Is the child exhibiting behavior that threatens the health or safety of the child or others AND the caregiver is unable to or unwilling to seek appropriate help or will not control the child's behaviors?

- a. *Consider the following questions to help you select yes or no to this question. If the answer is yes to any of the questions below, select yes to this question. If no, consider any other factors not captured below before selecting no.*
- b. *Consider if the parent is unable or unwilling to seek appropriate help or will not control the child's behaviors and:*
 - i. Has the child attempted or threatened suicide?
 - ii. Is the child cutting or having other self-harmful behaviors?
 - iii. Is the child exhibiting violent behavior towards others involving weapons?
 - iv. Is the child making threats of violence that involve weapons and there is reason to believe the child will carry out the threat (i.e. access to weapons)?
 - v. Is the child being violent towards very young or vulnerable children?
 - vi. Is the child torturing or killing animals?
 - vii. Is the child having fire-setting behavior?

6. Are the child's physical living conditions immediately hazardous to the child's health or safety OR is the child currently unsupervised and in need of supervision?

- a. *Consider the following questions to help you select yes or no to this question. If the answer is yes to any of the questions below, select yes to this question. If no, consider any other factors not captured below before selecting no.*

- i. Is the home leaking gas from stove or heating unit?
- ii. Are there substances/objects accessible to the child that may endanger their health/safety?
- iii. Are there exposed electrical wires?
- iv. Is there excessive garbage or rotted spoiled food that threatens the child's health?
- v. Is there evidence of human or animal waste throughout the living quarters?
- vi. Are there guns and other weapons that are accessible to the child?
- vii. Is there illegal drug production in the home?

7. Does the child have a non-accidental or suspicious physical injury? (Do not include very minor injuries, i.e.: mild redness or swelling, minor welts/scratches/abrasions, or brief and minor pain unless the child is non-ambulatory)

a. Consider the following questions to help you select yes or no to this question. If the answer is yes to any of the questions below, select yes to this question. If no, consider any other factors not captured below before selecting no.

- i. Are there physicians reports that the injury type is consistent with non-accidental injuries?
- ii. Is the injury to a non-ambulatory child with no plausible alternative explanation?
- iii. Do you think the explanation is suspicious or doesn't match the injury?
- iv. Is the injury in the shape of an object (i.e. loop marks, belt mark, hand mark)?
- v. Is there a credible disclosure by the child?

8. Is there current sexual abuse or exploitation as evidenced by disclosure, credible witness statements, or medical evidence?

9. Is there a non-perpetrating adult in the home who is aware of the abuse and has failed to protect the child?

10. Is the child fearful of going home?

11. Is there a current concern that domestic violence will impact the physical safety of the child within the next 5 days?

12. Does the alleged perpetrator have access to the child or other children outside of the home AND is the perpetrator's access to the child(ren) an immediate concern?