

# Child Safety Training FAQ Sheet

## ***Why are there different kinds of clearances?***

Different clearances report different types of information, though some information may overlap. The PA Criminal History Check would report on a broad range of offenses, like driving offenses and arrests, while the PA Child Abuse Clearance specifically targets child abuse offenses. Since these are state specific, an FBI (Federal) Background Check is also required for anyone who has lived outside of Pennsylvania ten years prior to completing the checks. Background checks are only one part of a larger screening process for Approved status at CMCL. We also require an application with references, a signed covenant, and attendance of child safety trainings, in addition to attending CMCL regularly for a minimum of six months.

## ***Am I a Mandated Reporter outside of CMCL?***

As a Mandated Reporter, you are required by the State of Pennsylvania to report suspected abuse of any identifiable child.

## ***What is an “identifiable” child?***

An identifiable child is any child whom you can identify to the authorities. This does not mean you know the child or the child’s name, per se, but that you know the location and/or family/friends/teachers of the child, in order to identify them.

## ***Must I report suspected abuse if I learn of the abuse from someone other than the child who was allegedly abused?***

Yes. Nothing requires the mandated reporter have direct contact with the child in order to make a report.

## ***Is my report confidential?***

Yes. Among the requirements for receiving Federal funding under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), States must preserve the confidentiality of all child abuse and neglect reports and records to protect the privacy rights of the child and of the child’s parents or guardians except in certain limited circumstances. All jurisdictions have confidentiality provisions to protect abuse and neglect records from public scrutiny. Confidentiality provisions mandate that such records are confidential, and many include specific mechanisms for protecting them from public view.

## ***What do I do if a child is in immediate danger?***

If a child is in immediate danger, call 911. If a child’s parents are the suspected abusers, do not send the child home. Call ChildLine immediately.

Some information was gathered from the following websites:

<http://drexel.edu/publicsafety/crimeprevention/protection-of-minors/mandated-reporting-of-suspected-child-abuse/>  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/confide.pdf>