**Michigan Public Library Child Abuse Reporting**

The Michigan Child Protection Law (1975 PA 238) MCL 722.621 et.seq governs which entities are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse in Michigan. Public Library Librarians and staff are currently NOT mandated reporters. This law also provides for a reporting system for anyone to report suspected abuse of children. Additionally, [MCL §722.625](http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-722-625) states that the identity of ANY reporters (mandated or not) “*is confidential subject to disclosure only with the consent of that person or by judicial process.*” In addition, reporters are exempt from liability for reporting:

“*A person acting in good faith who makes a report, cooperates in an investigation, or assists in any other requirement of this act* ***is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred by that action****. A person making a report or assisting in any other requirement of this act is presumed to have acted in good faith. This immunity from civil or criminal liability extends only to acts done according to this act*.”

In other words, anyone can report suspected abuse. Their identity will be kept confidential (unless requested by a court order), and a reporter(acting in good faith – that is, someone who really believes that there may be abuse) is immune from liability for reporting.

Therefore, one option for your staff is for one (or more) of them to call the MDHH reporting tip line, below and report the suspected abuse – they can report outside of their “official” capacity of the library.

Additional options may be to contact one or more of the resources below for advice of how best to provide assistance to the child (in the form of providing information on where she can obtain help and a safe haven for reporting).

**National Resources**

California Library Association article on child abuse prevention in libraries.

<http://www.cla-net.org/page/600/Insider-Article-April-2013-040913-What-Can-We-Do-Child-Abuse-Preventio.htm>

Position Statement by the National Assoc. for the Education of Young Children. (Contains a lot of useful information).

<https://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/PSCHAB98.PDF>

Darkness To Light (advocacy group dedicated to training people to recognize the signs of sexual abuse and to know what to do):

<http://www.d2l.org/site/c.4dICIJOkGcISE/b.6035035/k.8258/Prevent_Child_Sexual_Abuse.htm#.V6IKlU1TEfg>

**MICHIGAN RESOURCES**

Reporting Child Abuse in Michigan:

[http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971\_7119\_50648\_7193---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0%2C5885%2C7-339-73971_7119_50648_7193---%2C00.html)

Child Abuse Prevention – (A toolkit and event guide): <https://www.farmington.k12.mi.us/news/efriday/april_toolkit.pdf>

Michigan Children’s Trust Fund – Michigan Resources)

[http://www.michigan.gov/ctf/0,4554,7-196-75686\_27136-375952--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/ctf/0%2C4554%2C7-196-75686_27136-375952--%2C00.html)

The Prevention Network

(<http://www.preventionnetwork.org/>

Governor Snyder’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (Lists Task Force members – perhaps one is in your area).

[http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,1607,7-277-57738\_57679\_57726-250286--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0%2C1607%2C7-277-57738_57679_57726-250286--%2C00.html)

Child & Family Charities – Youth (Teen) Services & Hotline (has links to resources specific to teens in trouble)

<http://www.childandfamily.org/page.php?id=152>

Pathways (an abuse prevention and family counseling group that works with communities in Western Michigan)

<http://www.pathwaysmi.org/about-us>

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