

Mandated Reporters

The State of Illinois has a mandatory duty to report known or reasonably suspected cases of child abuse. These mandated reporters would include clergy, teachers, coaches, childcare workers, youth workers and any other person with responsibility for care of children. The State of Illinois has enacted child abuse reporting statutes in an effort to protect abused children and prevent future abuse.

Child Abuse is to include physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and sexual molestation. A Child is defined as any person under the age of 18 years. Child Abuse is defined as any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted upon a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody, and control. Discipline, including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner shall not be construed to be abuse.

Those that are mandated reporters at Valleybrook Community Church and suspect child abuse should report any such abuse to their immediate ministry leader and/or directly to the Department of Children and Family Services. The State of Illinois grants immunity to reporters of child abuse. This means that a reporter cannot be sued simply for reporting child abuse. However, a report needs to be based on "reasonable cause to believe" that abuse has occurred or is imminent. Persons who knowingly transmit false reports are subject to civil and criminal liability.

Have you read and fully understand your obligations as a mandated reporter? Y or N

Have you ever been convicted of child abuse? Y or N

Do you have child abuse charges pending? Y or N

Signature

Date