



BEYOND REASONABLE SUSPICION

Experiential Training for Understanding Child Abuse & Mandated Reporting with Practical Guidelines for Professional Interventions to Address Problematic Parental Discipline

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“My momma took a belt to me. And, I never did it again. I’ll take a belt to him if he ever does that again!” declares a mother.

“You’re too damn easy on them kids. Back talk me or you and no TV, no story, no dinner. Straight to bed,” declares the dad.

“I can’t even touch my kids. They’ll... their teacher will call CPS on me. You can’t discipline your own child, that’s why my kids get out of control. What am I supposed to do? Let them run wild? Or, smack ‘em to learn ‘em? And, go to jail!”

“He’s been real moody a lot lately. His grades are down. He don’t wanna to go to school. He used to love school.”

“She’s got new clothes and an Bipod, she won’t tell me how she got them. What’s going on?”

And what do you say? What do you think? What do you do?

The presentation starts with the basic Child Abuse Reporting Laws and then activates a conceptual process for mandated reporters such as teachers, therapists, social workers, and other human services providers to understand the criteria for distinguishing among Legal, Ethical, and Moral requirements; and among Legal, Ethical, and Practical/Program requirements.

A series of simple experiential activities will help participants distinguish among ineffective discipline, poor discipline, harm, and child abuse- child abuse that mandate reporting. Definitions and guidance in recognizing the different categories of child abuse: physical, sexual, neglect, emotional, and so forth. Guidance in how to handle problematic discipline techniques of parents for child abuse prevention. Cross-cultural and multi-cultural issues in child abuse reporting and discipline issues will also be addressed. Historical and multi-cultural aspects of corporal punishment and sexual boundaries and relationship to legal child abuse definitions.

1) Child Abuse Reporting Law—And What the Child Abuse Reporting Law IS NOT

Professional confusion that disempowers professionals (teachers, clinicians, etc.) and parents

2) Mandated Reporters

3) Legal, Ethical, and Moral requirements and distinctions- Requirements from the Law, Professional Requirements, and Personal Values;

Differentiating among the following questions:

What are your legal mandates? What are your program guidelines? What is your agenda?

4) Legal, Ethical, and Practical/Program requirements- Another Set of Critical Distinctions

5) OK and Not OK- A decision making process for Mandated Reporters

6) A Hierarchy of Criteria to differentiate among ineffective or effective, developmentally appropriate or inappropriate, existentially relevant or irrelevant discipline; effective or ineffective attention getting processes; problematic to unsafe disciplinary practices; and the role of adult emotional progression. How to use these Criteria in clinical (or other parent education) situations to prevent child abuse AND empower parents.

7) Definitions and Considerations of Child Abuse Categories with Experiential Activities to teach diagnostic and clinical interventions for each of the following child abuse categories:

Physical Abuse - Unreasonable Severe Corporal Punishment

Physical Abuse - Unjustifiable Punishment

Shaken Infant Syndrome

Physical Neglect

Sexual Abuse- Assault

Sexual Abuse- Exploitation

Emotional Abuse

Emotional Deprivation

INSTRUCTOR: Ronald Mah, M.A., Ph.D., L.M.F.T., CEU provider #PCE3298 The workshop presenter has a successful private practice (including many adolescents and young children, families and couples). He is also a credentialed elementary and secondary teacher. He has taught, directed, and owned child development centers. He is on the Board of Directors of both the California Association of Marriage & Family Therapists (CAMFT) and the California Kindergarten Association (CKA). He has extensive clinical experience with children and teenagers, including clinically supervising therapists in an inner city high school teen clinic. He has trained about youth to various human services and counseling agencies over the years. He also has two very positive and powerful teenage/ young adult children who have successfully passed through adolescence with a minimum of unnecessary drama! Ronald has teacher and parent education presentations available on dvds at www.FixedEarthFilms.com; he is also the author of “Difficult Behavior in Early Childhood, Positive Discipline for Pre-K-3 Classrooms and Beyond,” Corwin Press, 2006 and “The One-Minute Temper Tantrum Solution, Strategies for Responding to Children’s Challenging Behaviors,” Corwin Press, 2008.

Course meets the qualifications for continuing education for MFT’s and LCSW’s as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.