



A Back-To-School Brush-Up On Child Protective Services Law Updates

August is one of the busiest months for teachers, educators, and individuals who work with children. From taking one final summer vacation with your family to decorating your classroom and making sure your students will have the supplies they need, back-to-school season is in full swing.

While we can all get lost in the excitement of a new year, there are also issues related to our children's safety that school districts and teachers must prioritize.

The Child Protective Services Law was overhauled in 2014 and 2015. Several of the changes affect mandated reporters (someone who, because of their profession, is legally required to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to authorities).

Many schools and child-servicing organizations still have outdated policies that do not reflect those changes. The two most overlooked and misunderstood adjustments are:

- 1. The elimination of "reporting up the chain of command," when a point person reported all suspected abuse cases.** The revised law places the responsibility directly on the individual mandated reporter to make that report at the time abuse is suspected. If they tell their supervisor and fail to make the report immediately, they can be charged with failure to report, which now includes felony charges.
- 2. The expansion of circumstances under which suspected child abuse should be reported.** The law now requires mandated reporters to report suspected abuse in "off the clock" situations when they suspect abuse based on information disclosed to them.

Act 126 requires training of school employees on how to recognize and report suspected child abuse every five years.

Our organization provides free, in-person training on this subject, with scenarios that are relevant to educators' line of work. By attending in-person training, teachers and school personnel can:

- ▶ Discuss situations of suspected abuse and neglect
- ▶ Walk through scenarios
- ▶ Ask questions and receive on-the-spot answers

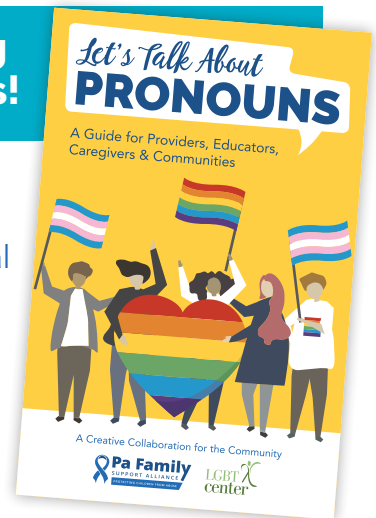
Schedule your free training today by going to www.pa-fsa.org or calling 800-448-4906.

Help Change the Story for Pennsylvania's Kids

Would you, your business, or your organization like to sponsor a PA Family Support Alliance event? PFSA's 40th anniversary celebration symposium is right around the corner, and it offers a great opportunity for you to help rewrite the story for PA's children. We have many levels of support and advertising available. Give us a shout and learn about our options today. Call Ann Moffitt, ACFRE, Director of Development, at 800-448-4906 or reach out via email to amoffitt@pa-fsa.org.

PFSA is Releasing New Publications!

This summer, PFSA collaborated with the LGBT Center of Central PA to design a guide and accompanying infographic poster raising awareness regarding the proper use of pronouns.



PFSA encourages all community-based service providers to utilize professional development resources like these to promote kindness, inclusion, and consideration in your PA community!

Visit our website to see all our new publications, and order yours today.



Join AG Josh Shapiro at our Symposium in September

Register now – seats are filling quickly! Visit our website today to save your seat for the PFSA PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium on September 18th in Harrisburg.

Pa Child Abuse PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

**SEPT
18**

**HARRISBURG HILTON
1 N SECOND STREET • HARRISBURG
8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

REGISTER ONLINE AT PA-FSA.ORG