

Child Neglect



Child neglect is the most frequently identified type of child maltreatment in the United States. In Pennsylvania, up to 80% of all reports made to ChildLine contain a concern of child neglect. If permitted to continue, child neglect situations are likely to have a detrimental effect on the child's intellectual, physical, social, and psychological development or functioning. Examples of child neglect include inadequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision, education, and/or medical care.

A concerning trend in Pennsylvania is the rising cases of neglect that result in the child's death or a near-fatality status at a hospital. Up to 90% of these cases involve children under

the age of 5 and most commonly include these types of neglect situations:

- ▶ Inadequate supervision
- ▶ Delay in medical care
- ▶ Malnutrition and dehydration

Intervening effectively in the lives of neglected children and families must be a shared community concern to address it adequately. No single agency, individual, or discipline has all the necessary knowledge, skills, or resources to provide the assistance needed by neglected children and their families. While public child welfare agencies have legal mandates and primary responsibility for responding to child

maltreatment, other service providers working with children and families — along with community members — play important roles in supporting families and protecting children.

Addressing this complex problem effectively demands the combined expertise and resources of interdisciplinary agencies and professionals.

In addressing this issue, it is important to understand that:

1) Most parents want to be good parents.

Underlying intervention is the belief that people have the strength and potential to change their lives. We need to search for and strengthen the inner resilience in families that provides the foundation for change.

2) The community's response must demonstrate respect for every person involved. All people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. This means showing respect for a person while not necessarily approving or condoning their actions.

3) Services must be individualized and tailored. Factors will vary from family to family, necessitating a customized response to

reflect each family's circumstances, strengths, and needs.

4) Interventions need to be sensitive to the culture, beliefs, and customs of all families.

We must first understand ourselves and the effects of our own background on our values, behaviors, and judgments about others. When working with children and families different from ourselves, we need to be aware of the context of that family's culture and background to provide access to culturally relevant services and solutions.

5) Prevention programs are necessary to strengthen families and reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment. To reduce the occurrence of maltreatment, communities should develop and implement prevention programs that support children and families psychologically, socially, situationally, and societally.

PA Family Support Alliance is committed to providing further training on this topic of child neglect in 2022. Be on the lookout for information on a new training titled Recognizing and Responding to Child Neglect.

Donate to PFSA

Support the cause, support PA kids! Consider giving a gift to PFSA to make a difference in the lives of PA kids and families. Your gift will advance the mission of PFSA to provide education, support, and training to make Pennsylvania safe for children. All donations help PFSA continue the successful delivery of training, development of educational materials, and ongoing support for community-based agencies. Visit pafsa.org to learn more about our services and to donate.



Call for Nominations

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, PFSA will honor individuals from across the commonwealth for exceptional contributions to preventing child abuse and neglect.

We want to recognize those professionals, volunteers, and everyday heroes among us who keep our children safe. Nominations for this recognition are welcome from schools, government agencies, community organizations, private practitioners, churches, and other concerned individuals and groups.

PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids award winners are shining examples of people working in Pennsylvania to prevent

child abuse and neglect. These awards are an opportunity to honor champions for children across the state who work tirelessly, often without fanfare or recognition, to improve the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

NOMINATE TODAY!

Individuals will be recognized as a PA Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids in April. The nomination deadline is February 25, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

To download a nomination form or submit a digital nomination form, **visit pafsa.org/nominate**. More details regarding awards and events will be announced soon, so stay tuned!



Did You Know?

PFSA has educational resources available in our online **store**. You can find informative materials covering a wide range of topics designed to assist caregivers, parents, and professionals in an effort to protect children.

Please visit our **website** to learn more!

Pa Family SUPPORT ALLIANCE
PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE

Making PA a Safe Place for Kids

Trauma
And Helping Children Cope

Prevention Programs | At a Glance

WHAT HAPPENED?
Responding to Disclosures of Child Abuse
A Guide for Professionals

Pa Family SUPPORT ALLIANCE
PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE

#ProtectPAKids
pafsa.org
800-448-4906

PFSA's CBCAP Network Members

PFSA would like to take an opportunity to welcome back all the current Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network members and extend a warm welcome to all of our new members! We are excited to begin another year with each of you!

The incredible work that each of you do every day to support families and strengthen your community does not go unnoticed.

PFSA is proud to partner and collaborate with such a diverse group of organizations, all focused on the overarching goal of preventing child abuse and neglect. Thank you for your commitment and dedication!

To find additional CBCAP Network events or learn more about becoming a CBCAP Network member, visit our website at www.pafsa.org.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Families in Recovery New Facilitator Training

PFSA is excited to announce that our Families in Recovery (FiR) program has additional dates scheduled for new facilitator training. This research-based program is a great resource for parents, guardians, and caretakers recovering from substance use disorder. The program aims to teach healthy coping and parenting skills while balancing the needs of recovery.

New facilitators will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day comprehensive session consisting of content, education, and application instruction of the curriculum. FiR site contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection procedures. FiR facilitators come together to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights following initial training.

Cost: Program costs have recently changed. Please contact Justin Donofrio, Program Services Manager, at jdonofrio@pafsa.org for details regarding contracts and costs.

Dates: April 13 & 14, 2022 (*virtual*) and July 13 & 14, 2022 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. (*half-hour lunch break*)

How to register: You must pre-register for this training. Email Justin Donofrio, Program Services Manager, at jdonofrio@pafsa.org for paperwork and to ask any questions.

Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for you and your staff to receive training on how to recognize and report suspected child abuse. This training is for those mandated by law to report suspected child abuse, as defined in the Child Protective Services Law. Curriculum is approved by the Departments of Human Services, Education, and State and meets all requirements for mandated reporters to receive training in recognizing and reporting child abuse (including Act 126).

Certificates are provided to the participants, and upon request, we will upload confirmation of your training to the Department of State or Education for CE fulfillments under Act 31 and/or Act 48.

This curriculum has also been approved for CLEs for attorneys.

LIVE IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

Cost: Free

How to register: Find and register for a virtual session here: pafsa.org/mandated-reporter-training

INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND OPTION

Cost: \$30

Take anytime: pafsa.org/on-demand-online-training

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER OPTION

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting. With the three-year contract, PFSA provides two days of initial instruction for approved applicants, reports CEs directly to PA Departments of State and Education, and offers ongoing technical assistance.

Cost: \$1,000 per trainer entering into a three-year contract with PFSA (*payment can be broken down by year: \$400/year one, \$300/year two, \$300/year three*)

Dates: Jan. 20 & 21, 2022 (*virtual*) and Mar. 23 & 24, 2022 (*virtual*)

Time: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (*half-hour lunch break*)

How to register: You must pre-register for this training. Email Haven Evans, Director of Programs, at hevans@pafsa.org for the paperwork or to ask any questions.

