

Mandatory Reporting Disclosure

Trust and confidentiality are important at MentorKids USA. However, MentorKids USA is a mandatory reporting agency. Because of this, there are three instances in which confidentiality MST be broken:

1. When Someone is suspected of abusing the student.
2. When the student is abusing someone.
3. When the student is planning on abusing themselves.

The state of Arizona has specific definitions for categories of abuse and neglect:

- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Exploitation
- Abandonment

A report of suspected child abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment is a responsible attempt to protect a child. Arizona law requires certain persons who suspect that a child has received non-accidental injury or has been neglected to report their concerns to DCS or local law enforcement (ARS §13-3620.A). Mandated reporters are required by law, as defined by ARS 13-3620, to report all concerns of child abuse or neglect. Department of Child Safety (DCS) also provides a secure website for mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect to report non-emergency concerns, as authorized by ARS 13-3620. Non-emergency concerns are those in which a child is not at immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in serious harm. This website is only for mandated reporters to report situations that do not require an emergency response. An emergency is a situation where a child faces an immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in death or serious harm.

If a child tells MentorKids USA staff, interns, volunteers, program partners, etc., of such experiences, we will act to protect that child by calling the toll-free Arizona Child Abuse Hotline at 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445), or by calling 911 in case of any emergency situations.

For more information, please visit the DCS website at <https://dcs.az.gov/services/suspect-abuse-report-it-now>.