



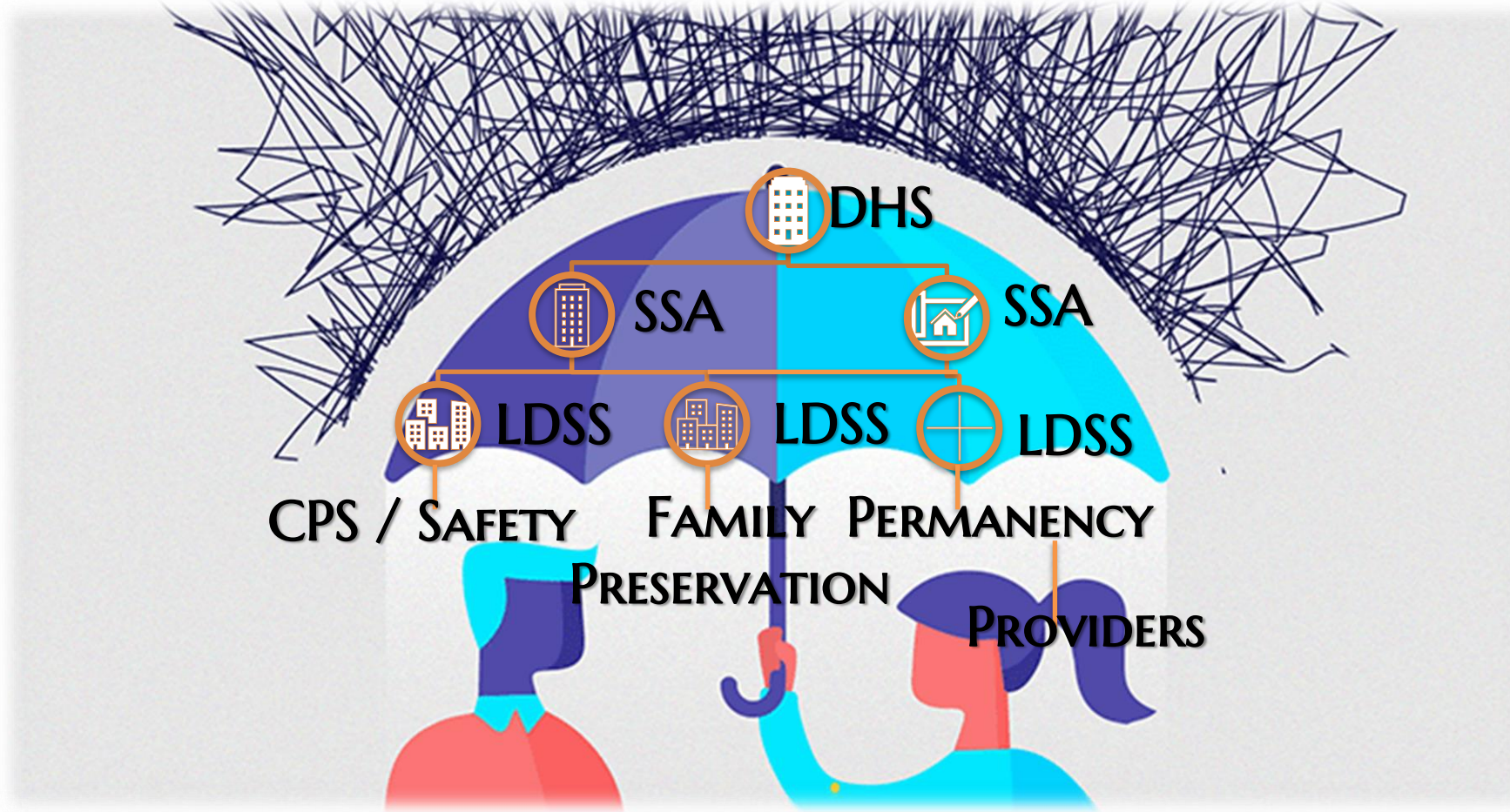
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING



TRAINING OBJECTIVES

- Understanding the Role of Child Protective Services
- Defining CPS Responses & Types of Maltreatment
- Identifying Who Are Mandated Reporters
- Understanding Your Responsibilities in Reporting Suspected Child Maltreatment
- Identifying Additional Resources And Trainings





CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES UMBRELLA



ELIGIBILITY FOR CPS RESPONSE

Without regard to economic circumstances, the following individuals are eligible for a CPS response:

- An alleged victim
- An alleged maltreater
 - Parent/Household/Family members of the alleged victim.
 - Any person who has permanent or temporary care or custody of the child
 - Any person who supervises a child, or otherwise exercises authority over the child through the person's position or occupation.

CHILD MALTREATMENT

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- Physical Abuse
- Mental Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect



PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical injury, not necessarily visible, of a child under circumstances that indicate that a child's health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed.



PHYSICAL SIGNS OF ABUSE

- Visible bruises
- Unexplained illness or injuries
- Parents use harsh physical discipline
- Child absent from classroom and missing most of their work
- Personal hygiene and/or surroundings are not taken care of
- Parent or child is abusing drugs or alcohol

CHARACTERISTICS OF ABUSE

- Sudden change in behavior
- Not receiving help for physical/medical problems
- Seeming frightened when someone enters the room
- Overly compliant, passive or withdrawn
- Parent displays little concern for child
- Parent demands unrealistic expectations the child cannot achieve
- Negative relationship between parent and child

MENTAL ABUSE

- Child may appear withdrawn, sad, or emotionally unattached to caregivers
- Caregiver is known or heard to repeatedly blame, belittle, or berate the child
- Child is aware of and exposed to domestic violence incidents between caregivers

BEHAVIORAL & EMOTIONAL SIGNS

- Constantly trying to please or attention seeking
- Aggressive, domineering behavior
- Unable to trust people
- Withdrawn
- Telling lies
- Inability to have fun
- Low self-esteem
- Bizarre behavior
- Tantrums (not age appropriate)



SEXUAL ABUSE

Abuse of a child under circumstances that indicate that a person involves a child under the age of consent in any activity that leads to the sexual gratification of that adult.



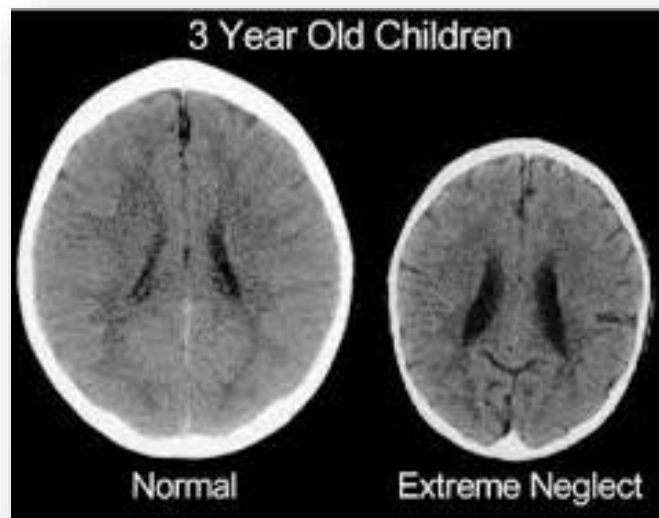
HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing or soliciting of a person for a commercial sex act in which the act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person performing the act is under 18.



NEGLECT

Unwillingness (despite having the ability), to give proper care, protection, and attention to a child by the child's parent, guardian, or custodian under circumstances that indicate the child's health or welfare is at risk of significant harm.



POVERTY IS NOT NEGLECT

The presence of poverty alone does not mean a child is unsafe, unloved, or that a parent lacks the capacity to care for his or her child.

Family Poverty is:

- Social issue
- Willing but unable
- Risk factor for neglect, but does not equate to it
- Financial resources and supportive services may help alleviate



OBSERVABLE SIGNS OF NEGLECT

- Child is witnessing illegal substance use by caregivers, and/or has access to unsafe items in the home
- Child is not being supervised adequately for their age and developmental ability
- Child's primary needs are not being met
 - Poor hygiene
 - Inadequately clothed
 - Poor nourishment
 - Regular infections
 - Poor motor skills / co-ordination
 - Delay in growth

MANDATED REPORTERS

Categories of Mandated Reporters:

- Health Practitioner
- Educator
- Human Service Worker
- Police Officer

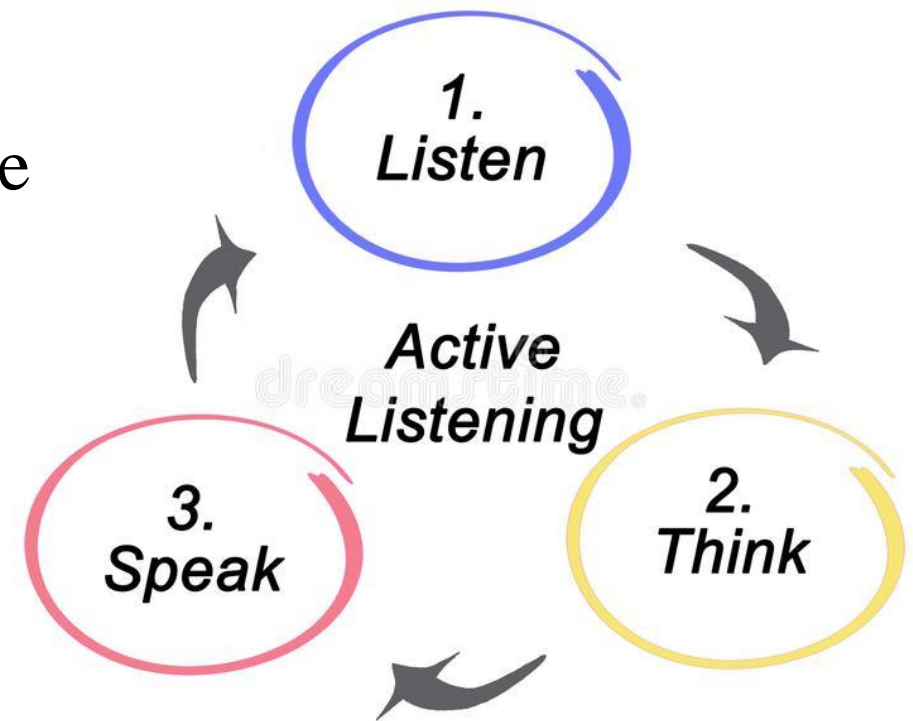
(not limited to above)

- Does NOT require PROOF that child maltreatment has occurred
- Don't need all the facts, it's DHS' job to investigate
- Report as soon as they are suspected
- Professional judgment and knowledge should be used to evaluate any suspicion.



WHAT IF CHILD MALTREATMENT IS DISCLOSED TO YOU

- Regularly engage with the child and their caregiver
- Ask specific questions and be curious
- Listen, do not make assumptions or interrogate
- Observe the environment
- Provide a safe environment
- Avoid denial and biases. Reassure the child
- Respect the child's privacy
- Report



WHAT TO REPORT

Oral and written reports must contain:

- Child demographics
- Caretaker name and address
- Child's whereabouts
- Nature and extent of the maltreatment
- Alleged maltreater identifying information

REPORTER RIGHTS

MD Fam L Code § 5-708 (2016)

Any person who makes or participates in making a report, an investigation, or a resulting judicial proceeding shall have the immunity from civil liability or criminal penalty.

Confidentiality

Information contained in records or reports concerning child abuse or neglect is protected.

FAILURE TO REPORT

(§ 3-602.2)

A person who is a mandated reporter knowingly fails to provide the required notice or written report if the person has actual knowledge of the abuse or neglect.

Penalty

A fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or both.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & TRAININGS

Child Protective Services Local Offices

<https://dhs.maryland.gov/child-protective-services/reporting-suspected-child-abuse-or-neglect/local-offices/>

BCAC Online Training Institute

<https://training.reportabusemd.com/>

Maryland State Department of Education

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DSFSS/SSSP/CAN-HT/index.aspx>