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Requirement to Report Suspected Child Abuse

Penal Code Section 11166 requires that any mandated reporter, who, in his/her/their professional capacity, has knowledge of or otherwise observes a child whom the reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse, report the suspicion to a child protective agency (police or sheriff's department, county probation department, or county welfare department) immediately, or as soon as practically possible, first by telephone and then by written report sent within 36 hours of becoming aware of the information concerning the incident. Reasonable suspicion does not require certainty or evidence that the abuse occurred; any reasonable suspicion applies.

The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C.A. § 5106g), as amended by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum:

- Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or
- Any act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which presents an imminent risk of serious harm to the child.

The California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) (Penal Code Section 11165.6) defines child abuse or neglect as:

- Physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child,
- Sexual abuse, including assault or exploitation;
- Neglect (including both acts and omissions and ranging from general to severe), which causes harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare;
- Willfully harming or injuring a child – causing or permitting a child to experience unjustifiable physical or mental suffering; and
- Unlawful corporal punishment or injury – the willful infliction of cruel or inhuman corporal punishment or injury upon any child resulting in a traumatic condition.

Under Penal Code Section 11165.7(a)(45-46), **all approved or otherwise certified resource parents are considered mandated reporters** and are obligated to comply with the child abuse reporting requirements. Failure to comply is a misdemeanor punishable by confinement in county jail and/or fine.

I/We have read and understand the requirements as outlined above and will comply with them. I/We further agree that any instance of child abuse, suspected or confirmed, will be reported to EF within 24 hours.

Signature of Resource Parent 1	*Printed Name*	*Date*
Signature of Resource Parent 2	*Printed Name*	*Date*