Attendance & Engagement System of Support & Professional Communities



Developed by the CSDE in collaboration with SERC

10/15/2024







Today's Agenda

Welcome

Christine Kuehlewind, Ann Marie Cordisco, and Holli Ryan, State Education Resource Center (SERC)

What's New at CSDE and Partners

Kari Sullivan Custer, Attendance & Engagement Consultant, CSDE Jay Brown, Bureau of Special Education Consultant (Academic Office), CSDE

Attendance & Engagement: CT Department of Children and Families- Careline

Lisa Daymonde, Careline Director, CT Dept of Children and Families Vanessa Hudson, Careline Program Supervisor, CT Dept of Children and Families

Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Christine Kuehlewind, SERC







Welcome

September 16, 2024

- NEW: EdSight Dashboard on Connecticut's Gifted and Talented Students
- Attendance Webinar for District Leaders
- Regional Early College Summits

September 19, 2024

- New Attendance Reports in EdSight Secure
- Sharing Hispanic Heritage History Month PD Playlist

September 26, 2024

- Nominations for the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholar Program
- CSDE 2024 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Summit
- The 2025 CT Teacher of the Year Ceremony

September 29, 2024

- New Contact: CSDE K-3 Literacy Assessment Contact assign by October 21
- National Manufacturing Month PD Playlist for Educators



<u>Superintendent's Digest</u>







Talk Tuesday

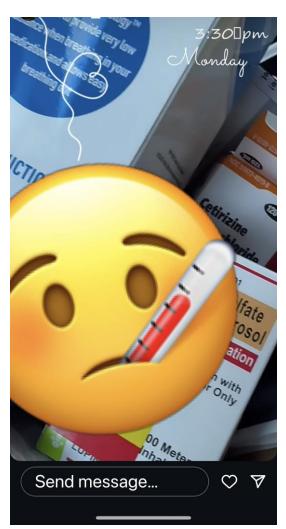
Kari Sullivan Custer September 17, 2024

Connecticut State
Department of Education



School is in Full Swing!





- We're now **7 weeks into the school year**, and as the weather gets colder, both physical and mental health challenges can start to affect student attendance.
- Seasonal illnesses like colds and the flu can impact attendance, and with shorter days and less sunlight, some students and families may experience an increase in stress, anxiety, or seasonal affective issues.
- It's important to check in with families and offer support for both physical health and mental wellbeing to keep students engaged and attending regularly.
- Let's work together to ensure every day counts!



Strategies to Prevent Absences



Promote Health and Wellness:

- Flu Shot Clinics: Offer flu shots and vaccinations.
- Healthy Habits Campaigns: Promote hygiene practices to reduce illness.

Mental Health Support:

- Counseling and Check-ins: Provide social-emotional support.
- Workshops: Address stress management and coping strategies.

Family Outreach = RELATIONSHIPS

- Frequent Communication: Remind families about attendance and health protocols. *Connect and understand what is happening with families.*
- Offer Resources: Share information on healthcare and mental health services.

Flexible Attendance Policies:

- Catch-Up Plans: Help students catch up after absences.
- Remind families when is too sick to come to school!

Incentivize Attendance:

- Attendance Challenges: Motivate students with fun incentives.
- Positive Reinforcement: Recognize and reward good attendance.



When is sick too sick for school?

School is better with you, even if you're a little under the weather!

When is sick too sick for school?

When is sick too sick too sick? - Spanish



CSDE Sponsored Supports to Districts Addressing Student Health and Wellness



Talk Tuesday: Focus on Health & Safety October 29, 2024



- Join us for a special edition of <u>Talk Tuesday</u> on October 29th, hosted by CSDE leadership, where we will focus on the critical topic of Student Health and Safety.
- Epidemiology partners from the State Department of Public Health (DPH) will be presenting timely information regarding respiratory viral diseases and more!
- We invite our regular Talk Tuesday audience of attendance leads and also strongly encourage district and school administrators, school health and nursing personnel, and local health partners to participate in this important conversation. If already registered for Talk Tuesdays, no need to reregister.
- The session will be held virtually from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 29th. Register now at https://serc.info/healthandsafety24



Supporting Your Child's Health and Well-being During the School Year

A Three-Part Series of Virtual House Calls for Parents and Families

Education

The CSDE is presenting a three-part webinar series for parents and families. If you can't attend the live session, please register to receive a link to the recording.

Part 1: Supporting Child and Family Wellness with Dr. Robert Keder, MD, Developmental Pediatrician from Connecticut Children's Hospital: Understanding challenging behaviors and child development, plus practical strategies to create supportive environments for your child's growth and success. Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024, 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. Register: https://serc.info/vhcpart1

Part 2: Preparing Your Family for Cold and Flu Season with Dr. Sten Vermund, MD, PhD, from Yale School of Public Health and Global Virus Network: Risk factors and prevention strategies to stop the spread of illnesses, including colds, Influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024, 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. Register: https://serc.info/vhcpart2

Part 3: Protecting Our Youth: A Community Approach to Suicide Prevention with A Panel of Experts from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Thursday, November 7, 2024, 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. Register: https://serc.info/vhcpart3

<u>Supporting Your Child's Health and Well-being During the School Year (mcusercontent.com)</u>



Featured Speakers

Attendance & Engagement: CT Department of Children and Families- Careline

Lisa Daymonde,
Careline Director,
(CT Department of Children and Families)

Vanessa Hudson,
Careline Program Supervisor
(CT Department of Children and Families)



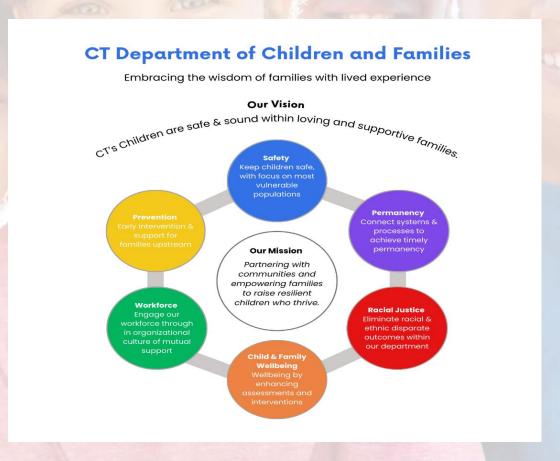


CT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Statutory Mandates and Strategic Goals

Child Protection
Children's Mental Health and
Substance Abuse
Prevention



CARELINE IS A 24/7/365 DAY OPERATION

- CALL CENTER
- SIU-Special Investigation Unit
- EPIU-Education Professionals Investigaton Unit
- CPS BGC-Background Child Unit
- AFTER HOURS RESPONSE

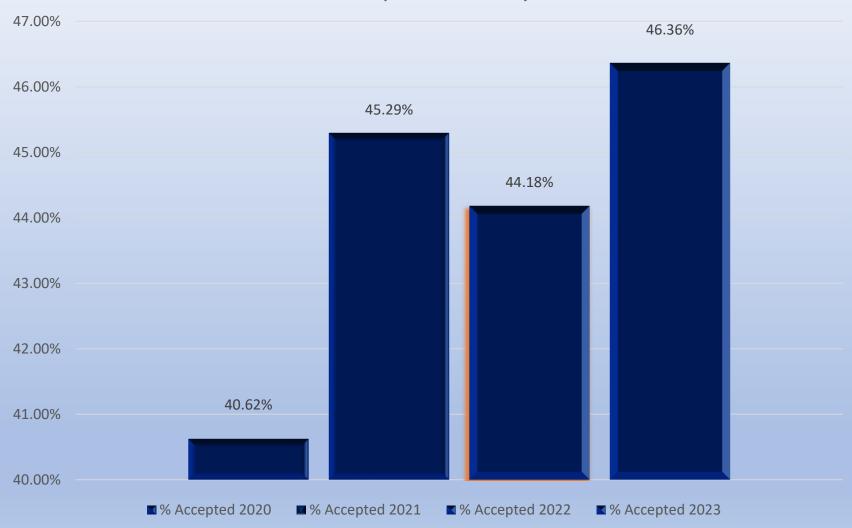
Annual Totals



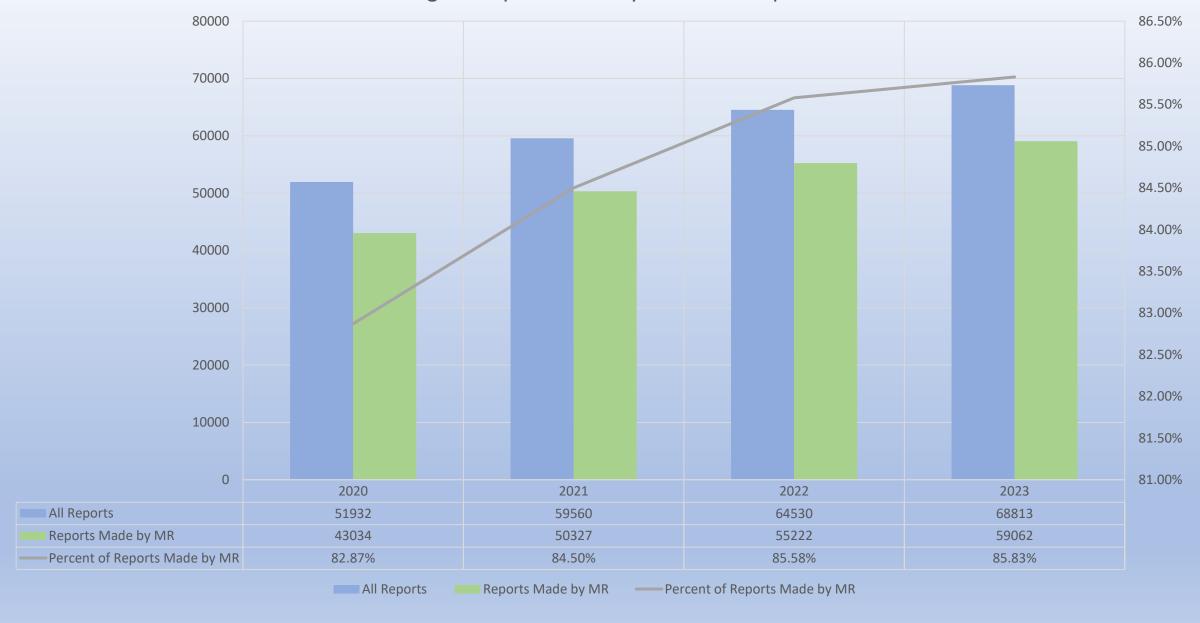
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Monthly Inbound Calls [answered+abandon+caller disconnected]			Answered Calls			Total Abandon/Caller Disconnected		Monthly Abandon			Monthly Caller Disconnected			Online Reports	
Month	Monthly Total	General	Hospital	Police	Abandon	Caller Disconnected	General	Hospital	Police	General	Hospital	Police	Completed	Improper	
TOTALS	111448	63564	6269	11131	8673	21811	7138	589	946	20286	538	987	13128	210	
January	10163	6006	504	960	811	1882	698	43	70	1831	16	35	1214	24	
February	9548	5450	540	943	941	1674	806	52	83	1610	23	41	1243	20	
March	10934	6280	545	998	1213	1898	1064	60	89	1830	30	38	1530	20	
April	8942	5021	539	986	747	1649	603	57	87	1586	19	44	1073	15	
May	10900	6346	597	1053	970	1934	786	70	114	1861	25	48	1374	16	
June	8331	4650	517	901	436	1827	317	45	74	1630	65	132	785	11	
July	7817	4069	567	951	446	1784	301	49	96	1583	65	136	467	12	
August	7719	4160	497	936	375	1751	246	36	93	1574	56	121	497	12	
September	9822	5605	508	892	781	2036	653	55	73	1876	53	107	1045	23	
October	9881	5988	470	864	658	1901	555	52	51	1743	71	87	1315	24	
November	8764	5085	481	810	612	1776	519	45	48	1621	66	89	1374	15	
December	8627	4904	504	837	683	1699	590	25	68	1541	49	109	1211	18	
					0										
Total Yearly Inbound Calls [answered+abandon+caller disconnected]		Total Yearly Answered Inbound Calls [general+police+hospital]			Total Abandon + Caller Disconnected		Total Abandon			Total Disconnected			Total Online Completed + Improper		
111448		80964			30484		8673			21811			13338		
Total Yearly Inbound Calls + Inbound Onlines		Total Answered Inbound Calls +													

Completed Online Reports

Total Acceptance Rate by Year



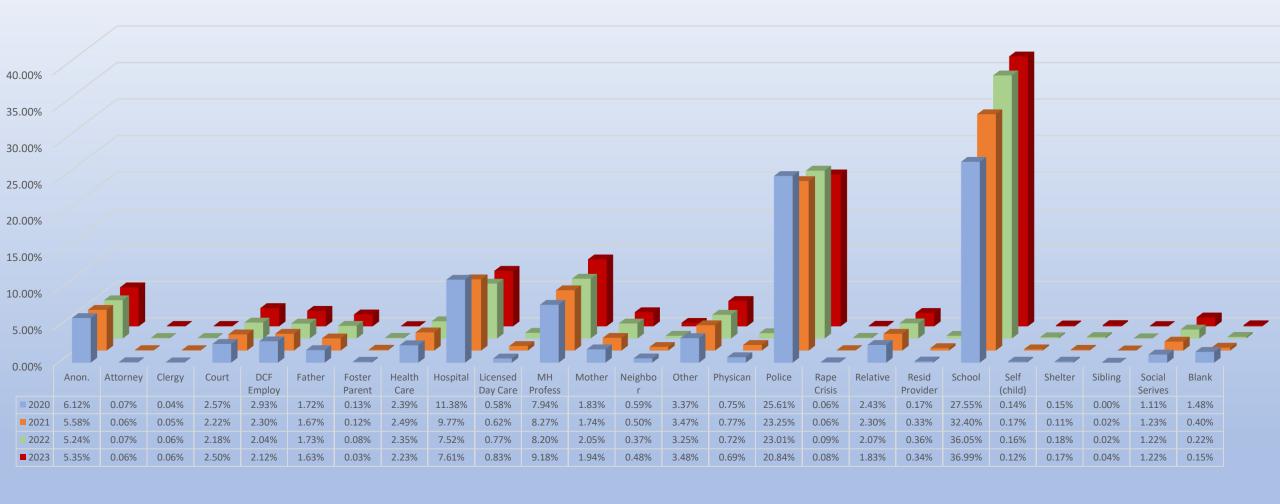
Percentage of Reports Made by Mandated Reporters



Reports Made by Mandated Reporters Monthly



Accepted Reports by Report ID Type All Reporters



Highlights from 2023

- ☐ Total reports received in 2023: 68,813 ☐ Total reports accepted in 2023: 31902 [46.36%] ☐ Busiest Month for CPS Reports = March 2023 | 7,193 reports received [3,235 accepted] ☐ Month with the HIGHEST ACCEPTANCE RATE = August (49.76%) | 2022: August ☐ Month with LOWEST ACCEPTANCE RATE = February [44.95%] | 2022: March ☐ There was an INCREASE of 2.18% [ACCEPTANCE RATE] from 2022 to 2023 **2** 2022: 44.18% and 2023: 46.36% ☐ Mandated Reporters made 85.83% of the reports in 2023 **2** 2022: 85.58% **2** 2021: 84.50% ☐ Top Reporters for Accepted reports in 2023 [31,902 accepted reports] School – 36.99% [11,800 accepted reports] Police – 20.84% [6,648 accepted reports] Mental Health Providers – 9.18% [2,930 accepted reports] Hospitals – 7.61% [2,429 accepted reports]
- *there was a 1.7% increase on FAR reports and 1.7% decrease on Investigation reports*

Anonymous [no name provided] – 5.35% [1,706 accepted reports]

Mandated Reporter
Laws Revisions
Effective 7/1/24

"Preliminary Inquiry For Mandated Reporters"

The law now allows mandated reporters (such as school employees, health professionals, and coaches) to conduct a preliminary inquiry to determine if reasonable cause exists to make a report. (effective July 1, 2024)

IMPORTANLTY, THIS INQUIRY IS NOT CONSIDERED AN ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATION BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OR DCF

Additionally, any person who makes or does not make, in good faith, a report to DCF, shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal. (effective July 1, 2024)

"Preliminary Inquiries Are Not Considered Investigations"

- Preliminary Inquiries allow educators the flexibility to ask students questions about who, what, where, and when, to seek clarity.
- This helps educators determine whether they need to proceed with a report to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).
- When conducting preliminary inquiries, it is crucial to ask questions that are sensitive, non-threatening, and designed to gather information without leading the child.
- It is important to remember that the goal is to gather information without making the child feel pressured or scared.

"Preliminary Inquiry Tips For Teachers"

- Create a safe environment: Make sure the child feels comfortable and secure.
- Use open-ended questions: This allows the child to provide more detailed answers.
- Be patient and listen: Give the child time to express themselves without rushing.
- Reassure the child: Let them know they are not in trouble and that it is okay to talk.
- Observe non-verbal cues: Pay attention to the child's body language and behavior.

Engaging Fathers And Non-Custodial Parents



- The Department recognizes the vital role fathers play in their children's lives. It is crucial for all fathers or non-custodial parents to be included and engaged by all those working with children within our communities.
- Before submitting an oral or online DCF report, it is essential to gather all demographic information about the father or noncustodial parent to include in your oral or online report.
- Tips on how to obtain the demographic info pertaining to the father or non-custodial parent:
 - Asking the other parent/caregiver/custodial parent
 - Asking the child(ren)
 - Reviewing school/medical/other records available within your organization to obtain the information

Seeking Support is a Sign of Strength

Carelon Behavioral Health Connecting to Care In Home and Evidence Based intervention CT.org Community Pathways Careline Directory of community Intensive Care Coordination Child safety and based supports Access mental health for youth & moms child maltreatment **AIM Tool** Network of care management Carelonbehavioralhealth.com -or- (877) 381-4193 Youth Service Bureau / **FAVOR** Juvenile Review Boards Advocacy **Local Supports Lived Expertise** Town and Community FAVOR-ct.org Specific **Diversionary Programs** CT.GOV/DCF Substance Use Access Line Voluntary Care Management Connection to programs Youth with serious emotional and transportation challenges and/or substance 1-800-563-4086 use disorders Identified 1-800-842-2288 (Option 3) Need United Way 211 Housing, Income, Childcare, Legal Community based Supports **Emergency Mobile Psychiatry Services** Faith Based 211.org **Organizations**







When to make a referral to the DCF Careline

Mandated reporters are required to report or cause a report to be made when, in the ordinary course of their employment or profession, they have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child under the age of 18 has been abused, neglected or is placed in imminent risk of serious harm. (CGS§17a-101a)

EMERGENT SITUATIONS- Call the CARELINE

800-842-2288 (General Line) 860-352-9261 (back up line)

If the victim or another similarly situated minor is presenting in:

- Immediate harm
- With the need for emergent medical or mental health care
- With a realistic fear of further abuse or neglect within the next 24 hours
- . That they will be inaccessible within the next 24 hours

NON-EMERGENT SITUATIONS- Online Referral

https://portal.dcf.ct.gov/

If the victim or another similarly situated minor is not presenting in need for an emergent response:

- Complete the online report in full, with as much detail and information as possible (failure to provide detailed information may result in a non-accept)
- Upon successful submission you will receive a confirmation email
- Online reporting is available 24 hours a day

All 3 components are required for referral to be accepted:



FOR FAMILIES THAT DO NOT MEET THE ABOVE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM SERVICES, CONTACT THE INFOLINE @ 211.

 Age limitations are not considered for children currently receiving services from DCF or if allegations involve sexual abuse of a student by school personnel.

Educational Neglect

- *Occurs when a school-aged child has excessive absences from school through the intent or neglect of the parent or caregiver.
- *For children older than 12, excessive absenteeism through the child's own intent, despite the caregiver's efforts, is truancy which is handled through the school

Educational Neglect - Criteria

Criteria:

- For children school-aged to age 12 excessive absenteeism may be indicative of the parent's or caregiver's failure to meet the educational needs of the student.
- For children older than age 12 excessive absenteeism, coupled with a failure by the parent or caregiver to engage in efforts to improve the child's attendance, may be indicative of educational neglect.

Note: For children older than age 12, excessive absenteeism through the child's own intent, despite the parent's or caregiver's efforts, is not educational neglect. Rather this is truancy which is handled through the school district.

Considerations in determining the criteria for excessive absenteeism, the following characteristics of the child shall be considered by the Social Worker:

- age;
- health;
- level of functioning;
- academic standing; and
- dependency on parent or caregiver.

In determining the criteria for **excessive absenteeism**, the **following characteristics of the parent or caregiver** shall be considered by the Social Worker:

- rationale provided for the absences;
- efforts to communicate and engage with the educational provider; and
- failure to enroll a school-aged child in appropriate educational programming (including home schooling).



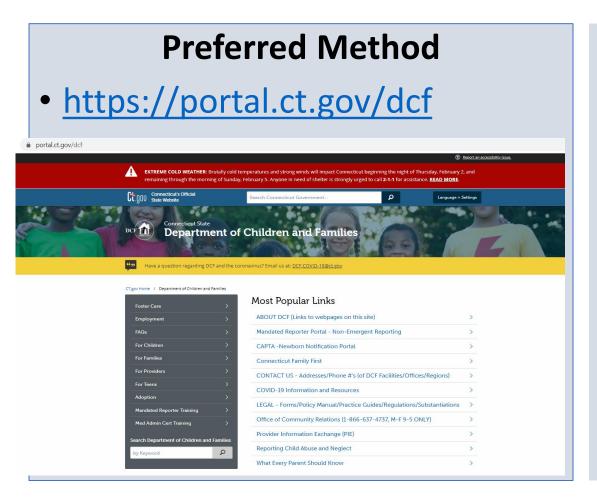
All Oral And Portal Reports Shall Contain The Following Information, If Known

- 1. The names and addresses of the child and his parents or other person responsible for his care
- The age of the child
- 3. The gender of the child
- 4. The nature and extent of the child's injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect
- 5. The approximate date and time the injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect occurred
- 6. Information concerning any previous injury or injuries to, or maltreatment or neglect of, the child or his siblings

All Oral And Portal Reports Shall Contain The Following Information, If Known

- 7. The circumstances in which the injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect came to be known to the reporter
- 8. The name of the person or persons suspected to be responsible for causing such injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect
- 9. The reasons such person or persons are suspected of causing such injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect
- 10. Any information concerning any prior cases in which such person or persons have been suspected of causing an injury, maltreatment or neglect of a child
- 11. Whatever action, if any, was taken to treat, provide shelter or otherwise assist the child 17a-101d

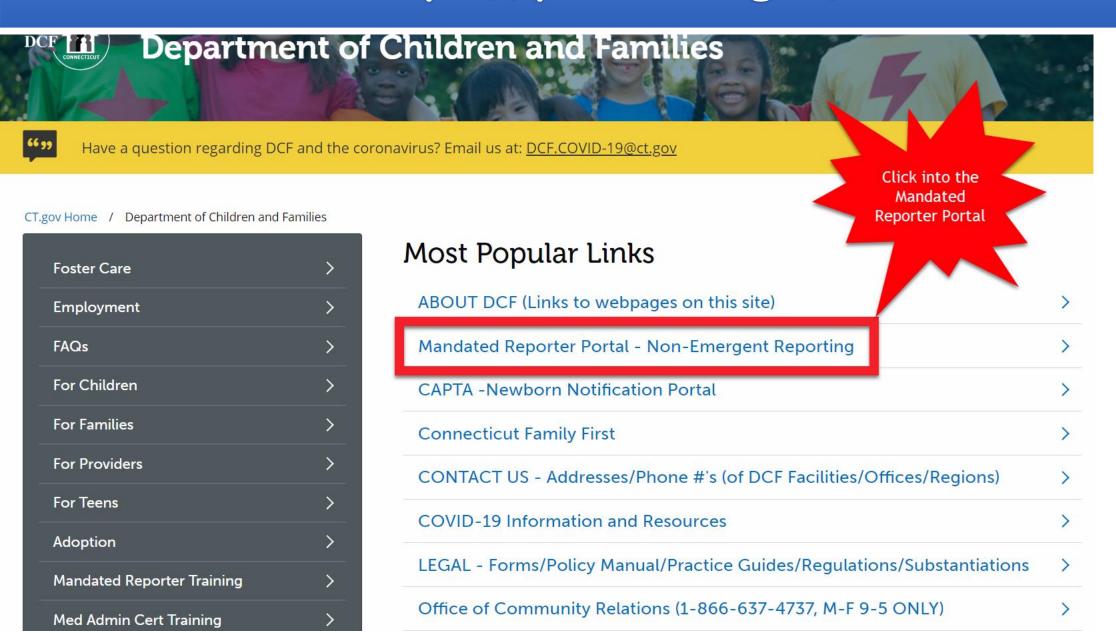
There are *two* easy ways to locate the DCF Mandated Reporter Portal



Another Option

- Use a Search Engine such as Google or Bing.
- Search "DCF Connecticut"
- Click into the DCF website
 - https://portal.ct.gov/dcf
- This link will bring you to the Preferred Method

https://portal.ct.gov/dcf





DCF Portal Application Page





CPS Background Check

CPS Background Check requests can be submitted in this site. You can submit Employment, Foster Care, and Adam Walsh checks.

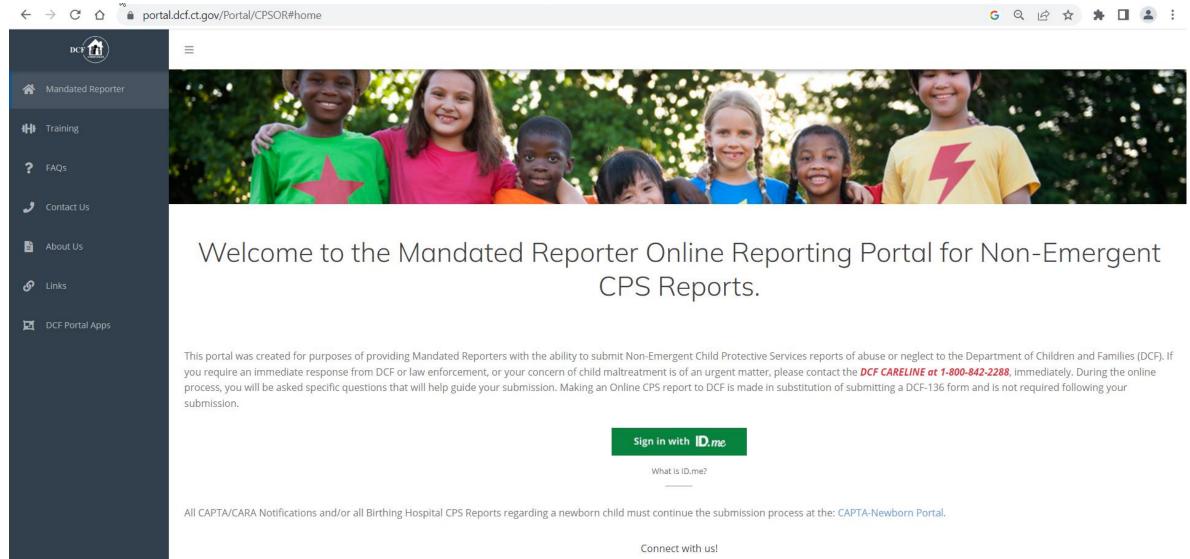
More Info

Training





Mandated Reporter Online Reporting Portal for Non-Emergent CPS Reports



Mandated Reporter Portal Enhancements

- 1. Ability for multiple attachments to now be included with online CPS reports
- 2. Improved questions and additional information pop-ups to help elicit improved responses and details
- 3. Upgraded hard stops to force urgent reports to be called directly to the DCF Careline
- 4. One-time opportunity to download a copy of the submitted CPS report
- 5. Dashboard view to see previous submissions with reference numbers
- 6. Ability to save in-progress reports and resume at a later time (up to 12 hours)

Empowering Mandated Reporters - Brochure

CHILD SAFETY PRACTICE MODEL

The ABCD Paradigm creates framework to help assess child safety and unites DCF's work internally, across specializations, and systems when working with children, parents, families, and community providers.

Adult Protective Capacities: Ability to understand their protective role and take action ensuring safety.

- Attachment, attunement, and expectations.
- Network of family and social supports.
- Self-regulation and problem-solving.

Behaviors of Concern: Harmful behaviors impacting child safety and well-being.

 Extent to which parent's acknowledge the problem, engage in interventions, and demonstrate progress.

Child Vulnerability: Ability to recognize and understand to take protective action.

- The chronological/developmental age.
 Visibility in the community.
- · Level of supervision or care required.
- Parental discipline techniques.
- · History of trauma or adversity.

<u>Dangerous Conditions</u>: Environmental conditions which present immediate harm.

- Is the home child-proofed/free of hazards.
- Weapons, medications, or substances.
- Exposure to dangerous people/situations.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? WE CHALLENGE YOU TO LEARN MORE!

ENGAGING FATHER'S IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN

The Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) is a broad-based, statewide collaborative effort led by the Department of Social Services, focused on changing the systems that can improve fathers' ability to be fully and positively involved in the lives of their children.

DID YOU KNOW?!

You can register for FREE inperson and/or virtual trainings via the Academy for Community Partners! Topics include but are not limited to: Advancing Anti Racism; Implicit Bias; Poverty Is Not Neglect; ABCD Child Safety Practice Model; and more offerings update seasonally.

WEBLINKS TO TRAINING CATALOG & RESOURCES:

https://portal.ct.gov/dcf/for-providers/home https://portal.ct.gov/dcf/mandated-reportertraining/home

https://portal.ct.gov/dcf/1-dcf/child-abuseand-neglect-definitions

> https://connectingtocarect.org https://portal.ct.gov/fatherhood

EMPOWERING MANDATED REPORTERS

THANK YOU FOR
CONTRIBUTING TO CHILD
PROTECTION BY HELPING TO
BUILD A STRONGER SAFETY NET
FOR CHILDREN ACROSS
CONNECTICUT COMMUNITIES



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Children and Families
Academy for Community Partners
505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06105
Tel. (860) 550-6300

Scan To Download



Thank You

Lisa R. Daymonde, LMSW

Careline Director

Office: 860-560-7001

Cell: 203 675-3413

Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm

Chanae' Perry, MSW

Careline Program Supervisor

Cell: 860-462--5830

Hours: Monday- Friday 2:00pm=10:30pm

Vanessa Hudson

Careline Program Supervisor

Cell: 860-305-2820

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 7:30am-4:00pm

Edward Valentin, MSW

Careline Program Supervisor

Cell: 860-455-5434

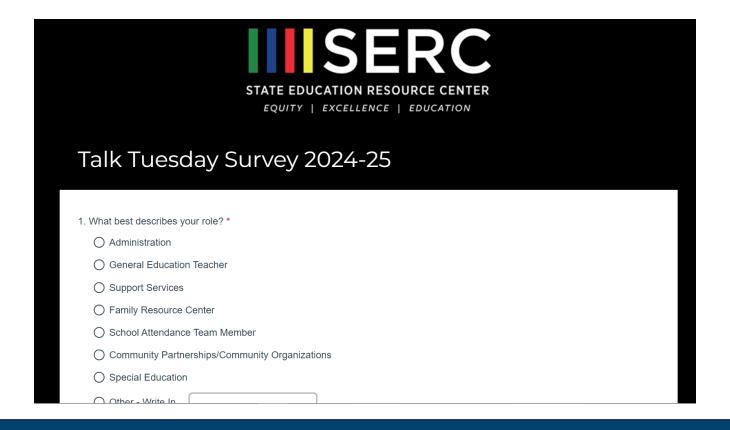
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:00am-6:30pm &

Saturday 8:00am-4:30pm



Talk Tuesday Survey

https://serc.info/ttsurvey24









Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Talk Tuesdays for the 2024-25 School Year

2024-2025

- October 29
- November 12
- December 10

- January 7
- January 23
- February 4
- March 4
- March 18
- April 1
- April 29
- May 13
- May 27

Register for Talk Tuesdays









Keep in Touch!

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