



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Commissioner

John B. Mattingly
ACS Commissioner

Dear Health Care Professional:

In 2006, New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) investigated 63,000 reports of child abuse and neglect. Reports often involve more than one child, so approximately 90,000 children come to the attention of ACS each year. During each investigation, ACS assesses a child's safety and takes action, as necessary, to prevent child abuse and/or neglect.

Mandated reporters are those professionals legally required to report suspected child abuse and neglect to the State Central Register. All health care professionals are mandated reporters. Most reports do not result in the removal of a child from his or her home—only children who cannot remain safely in their homes are placed in foster care. In fact, many families receive services that help children remain safely in the home while their parents or caregivers get the help they need.

As a health care professional, you undoubtedly come into contact with children at risk and families in crisis. This gives you a special opportunity and responsibility to help them get the support and services they need to be safe. The New York City Health Department, and ACS, provide the following guidance:

- 1. Report all suspected child abuse and neglect – a first step in helping a family – by calling the State Central Register at 1-800-635-1522 or 311. ACS works to ensure the safety of children and connect families to vital support services.**
- 2. Do not assume someone else will report. You might be the only person to identify and report an abused or neglected child.**

We hope you find the clinical tools, resources and patient education materials in this **Action Kit** informative and useful. Your Health Department representative is visiting you to discuss ways to apply these methods in your practice.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the health and safety of New York City's children.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
Health Department

John B. Mattingly
Commissioner
Administration for Children's Services