

Sasha Bruce Youthwork Mandated Reporter Policy

All Sasha Bruce Youthwork staff are **mandated reporters**. A mandated reporter is a professional who frequently works with children and are **legally obligated to report all alleged and/or suspected child abuse or neglect or risk to a minor client's health and safety.** This is because professionals who have constant access and contact with children will likely be the first to notice any kind of abuse or neglect. According to the Children and Family Services Agency, mandated reporting is a way for the District of Columbia to provide a safety net that provides life-saving interventions for vulnerable children and youth in our community.

Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc. uses a guide for mandated reporters called “**Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse.**” Some examples outlined in this guide of abuse and/or neglect includes, but not limited to, the following:

- Physical abuse: hitting, slapping, punching, squeezing, pushing, wrestling, etc.
- Emotional abuse: teasing, name-calling, threatening, belittling, harassing, derogatory comments, excessive staring, and excessive horse playing, etc.
- Sexual abuse: inappropriate touching, kissing, fondling, etc.
- Neglect: lack of food, lack of medical supplies, lack of personal health care items, lack of household supplies, lack of heating and cooling, etc.

The procedures and policies are as follows:

- Staff must complete an online two-hour training offered thru CFSA at this link: <https://cfsa.dc.gov/service/mandated-reporter-training>. After completion, they will send the certificate to their direct supervisor and the Human Resources Department.
- All suspected, alleged or actual abuse must be immediately reported to the appropriate individuals or agencies
 - Staff will report to the Program manager and CFSA's 24 hour Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline – 202 671- SAFE
 - The Program Manager will then report to local authorities, if necessary
- All clients and families will be informed of the above policy and staff's role as a mandated reporter
- Clients will be encouraged to report all safety concerns