Peak Education Mentor Reporting Information

Last Updated 9/21/2020

While Peak Education mentors are not, by law, mandated reporters, it is a best practice to inform Peak Education (benedict@peakedu.org) if you suspect your mentee may be a victim of abuse/ neglect, or if you have other serious concerns about their well-being. Once you inform Peak Education, a staff member can support you through the process of making a report to the Colorado Department of Human Services.

**When to Report**

* Someone makes a specific disclosure, and the child is identifiable. This includes children that the mentor may not know through their work or volunteer position OR
* A person 14 years old or older makes a disclosure that he/she has committed child abuse. This includes children that the mentor may not know through their work or volunteer position.
* The mentor does not have to witness/ know the child to make a report of suspected child abuse.

In order to make a report, only the suspicion of abuse is needed; it is not necessary that a reporter has definitive proof. Mentors must not try to determine whether abuse has happened. They are not investigators and should not ask questions about what happened, who did it, and so forth beyond reaching the threshold of reasonable cause to suspect that the child has been abused.

**Reporting**

* Colorado Dept. of Human Services: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/report-abuse>
* El Paso County Dept. Of Human Services abuse reporting: Call 1.844.CO.4.KIDS (1.844.264.5437)
* Denver Dept. of Human Services: <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-human-services.html>

**Local Crisis Services (from NAMI website)**

* **Colorado Crisis Services Hotline**
844.493.8255, or text “TALK” to 38255
Chat services are also available from 4 p.m. to midnight daily at [**coloradocrisisservices.org**](http://coloradocrisisservices.org/).