

# Mandated Supporting



Mandated reporters are professionals who are required to report suspected child abuse and maltreatment to Child Protective Services (CPS). Training for mandated reporters creates the false conception that reporting to CPS is the best way to ensure child safety and fails to explain the harms that families experience as a result of a CPS report. Research has shown that CPS investigations alone can do immediate and long-lasting psychological harm to children—and for many families, a report can result in permanent family separation.

In collaboration with social work students, advocates, and other experts, Just Making A Change for Families (JMACforFamilies) created a curriculum to transform mandated reporting to “mandated supporting.” This curriculum offers alternative approaches to ensuring child welfare, including providing families with resources and community support.

This mandated supporting framework seeks to center families through equitable, harm reductionist, and anti-racist practices, while divesting from systems of surveillance and punishment.

## **Module 1: Mandated Supporting**

- What is Mandated Reporting and Who is a Mandated Reporter?
- New York State Reporting Law Section 413-420
- Overview of New York State Reporting Laws
- History of Mandated Reporting Timeline
- Example Legal Case
- Bias and Reporting
- Alternative Non-carceral Resources

## **Module 2: Family Defense**

- Mandated Reporting Stats in New York State
- Eight Skills Necessary for Mandated Supporters (understanding mandated reporting, understanding neglect, self-reflection, what to do if you must call ACS, mitigating harm, what happens after the call, understanding the impact of ACS, helping families exercise legal rights)

## **Module 3: Scenario Practice**

- Real life scenario practice to integrate the eight skills learned in Module 2 and reflection space to imagine a world beyond mandated reporting.

To learn more about the curriculum, contact [kexcell@jmacforfamilies.org](mailto:kexcell@jmacforfamilies.org).