

CHANT MANDATORY REPORTING

ADDENDUM



Purpose

CHANT is committed to the safety, dignity, and well-being of the children and families we serve.

This Addendum exists to ensure that all volunteers understand and acknowledge their legal obligations under Texas law related to the reporting of child abuse and neglect.

Mandatory Reporting Agreement and Information

1. Mandatory Reporting Under Texas Law

- A. Under Texas Family Code § 261.101(a): *Any person having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect is legally required to immediately make a report.*
- B. Texas is a universal mandatory reporting state. This means that all individuals, including volunteers, are mandatory reporters regardless of job title, compensation, or professional licensure.
- C. Because CHANT volunteers work with and around minors, this law applies to you in your role as a volunteer.

2. Scope of This Obligation

- A. As a CHANT volunteer, you are required to report if you:
 - i. Witness abuse or neglect of a child.
 - ii. Receive a disclosure from a child.
 - iii. Have reasonable cause to believe abuse or neglect has occurred or may occur.
- B. This duty applies whether the information is learned:
 - i. During CHANT activities.
 - ii. On or off CHANT premises.

iii. From a child, parent, caregiver, or third party.

C. You may not delegate this responsibility to another volunteer or staff member.

3. Reporting Requirements

A. Reports must be made immediately.

B. Reports must be made directly to the appropriate authorities.

4. How to Report in Texas

A. A report can be made by:

- Calling Texas Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400.
- Submitting a report online: <https://www.txabusehotline.org>

(for non-emergency situations).

B. In emergencies, call 911.

5. Confidentiality and Protection

A. Reports are confidential under Texas law.

B. Individuals who report in good faith are protected from civil and criminal liability.

C. CHANT prohibits retaliation against any volunteer who makes a report in good faith.

6. Failure to Report

A. Under Texas Family Code § 261.109, failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect may result in:

- A Class A misdemeanor.
- A state jail felony if the failure to report was intentional to conceal abuse.

Acknowledgment and Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- I understand that I am a mandatory reporter under Texas law.
- I understand my obligation to report suspected child abuse or neglect immediately.
- I understand that this duty exists regardless of my volunteer status or role.
- I agree to comply with this requirement as a condition of my volunteer service with CHANT.

Printed Name

Date

Signature