**When Should You make A Referral to CPS?**

* If you are a mandated reporter, you must refer to CPS within 24 hours if you:
  + 1- see abuse or neglect,
  + 2- suspect ongoing abuse or neglect,
  + 3- think there is imminent danger of abuse or neglect to a child or adult.
  + 4- Failing to report or preventing someone else from reporting when they should is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and up to a $5000 fine.
* For our purposes, a mandated reporter is someone who has a health care license or certification to practice and works with or around infants and children.
  + Given that you legally have 24 hours before making a CPS referral, MAWV recommends that you consult other MAWV members to discuss the situation before making the referral, except in the case of imminent danger to a child.
  + If you feel there is no imminent danger but you’re still worried, you are not legally obligated to make a referral to CPS but you can do so if you choose. MAWV recommends that you consult other MAWV members first to see if there are other actions you could take instead of making a referral.
  + Once you have made a referral to the CPS hotline, you have no further legal obligations. You do NOT have to call 911 unless you feel it’s an emergency. If the CPS hotline tells you to call 911, you can decline to do so. You also are not legally obliged to give CPS your name and contact information.
  + To sum up:
  + If you see or suspect abuse or neglect, you have 24 hours in which to make a referral to CPS. MAWV encourages you to consult other MAWV members before making a referral, except in the case of an emergency.
  + If you make a referral to CPS, you do not have to call 911, even if CPS tells you to. You also do not have to give them your name and contact information.
  + If you do not feel there is imminent danger, you are not obligated to make a referral, but you can do so if you’re worried or in doubt. However, MAWV encourages you to consult other MAWV members first in a case like this, to see if there are other actions you could take instead of making a CPS referral.