# Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse: A Flow Chart for OVW-funded Advocates

### Are you a "mandatory reporter?"

Review your statute to determine who <u>must</u> report child abuse in your jurisdiction. Pay attention to the particular requirements. Be sure to inform the victim at the outset -before the victim makes any disclosures- if you are a mandatory reporter.





#### Is the victim someone whose abuse must be reported?

Is the victim a minor about whom abuse must be reported? For example, a minor may not be subject to the mandatory child abuse reporting laws if the minor is emancipated, in the military, or a parent.



Has the victim experienced "child abuse" as your statute defines it?



## Are you exempt from reporting in this case?

For example is the disclosure protected by a victim-advocate, therapist-patient, attorney-client or other privilege that prohibits disclosure without victim consent?



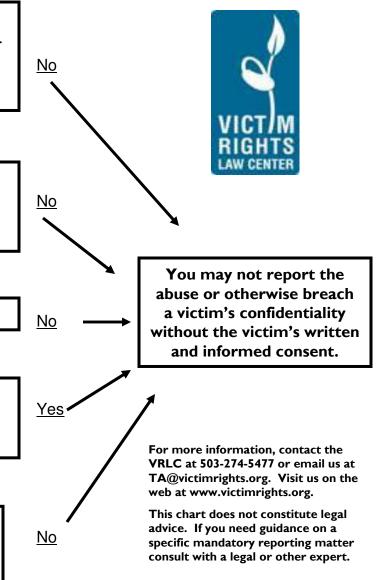
#### Report Must Be Made

Make the report to the appropriate agency.

If there is a choice between agencies, discuss the options with the victim. Ensure you are reporting only what is required, and that you are complying with VAWA or other funders' confidentiality requirements.

You may report only the information required by the mandatory reporting statute unless the victim gives informed consent, in writing, for you to release additional information.

Remember to safety plan and offer the victim ongoing support!



Preparation of this material was supported in part by grant 2010-X3768-MA-TA awarded by OVW, US DOJ. The opinions, finding, and conclusions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent the official position or policies of the US DOJ.

Do not reproduce or modify this chart without written permission.