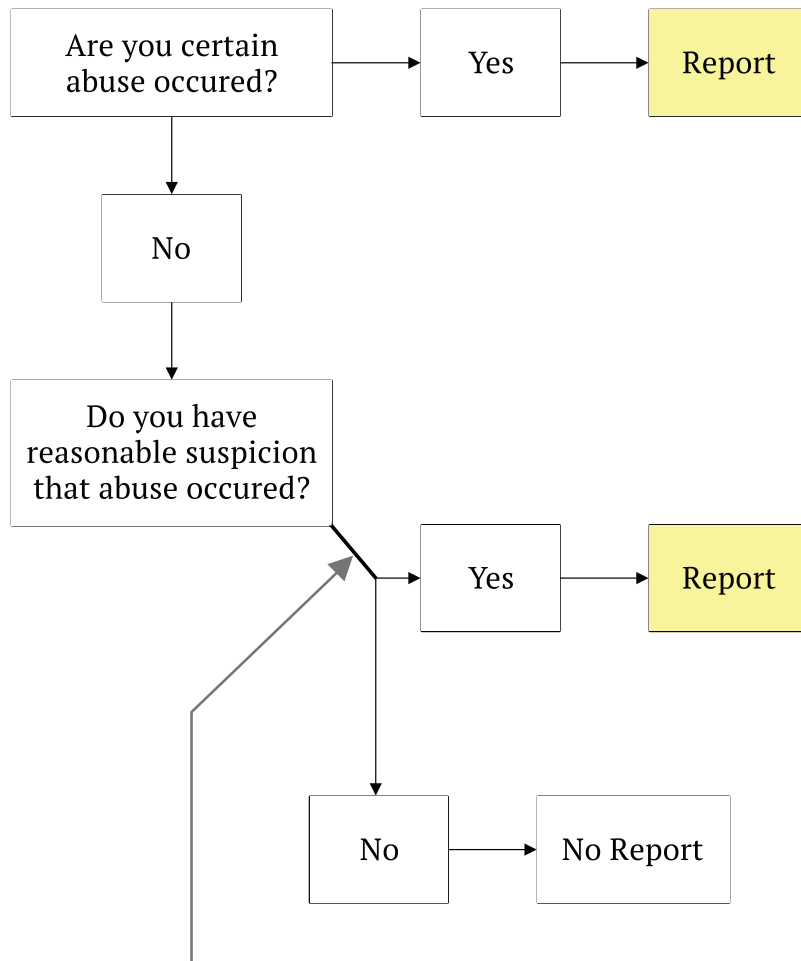


# What should you know about reporting suspected child abuse?

## When should you report?



Adapted from Levi & Portwood, *J. Law, Medicine, & Ethics*, 2011;39(1):62-69

**AFTER YOU REPORT:** As a mandated reporter, you have the right to learn from the PA Department of Human Services the outcome of the report that you made and the services planned or provided to protect the child.

Components to help answer the question: *Do you have reasonable suspicion?*

### Feelings

- You have confidence in the soundness of your observations, based on
  - the time you have spent observing
  - familiarity with the object of your observations
  - the nature of the evidence you examined
    - ◆ their meaning is clear
    - ◆ you observed it first-hand
- You have confidence in your judgement, based on
  - similar or related experience in the past
  - the “fit” of the explanation

### Conditions

- The child is vulnerable
- You have information and/or insight that others do not have
- No one else has reported it

### Assessing Probability

- You think it's likely
  - The child was abused
  - Something bad could happen if you don't report
  - Abuse will occur in the future
  - Reporting will help