



**July 2021**

## *Debunking Myths Surrounding Mandated Reporting In California: What Goes on After the Call*

**Presented by** Mary Alvin Nichols, MEd., LMFT

**Discussion Facilitated by** Ellen Vaca, M.S., BCBA

Mandated reporting is the duty of all clinicians working with families and children. Making the decision to call can be fraught with confusion, anxiety, and dread for the clinician. Not knowing how the systems of child welfare and law enforcement might respond to the family can cause well-meaning clinicians to delay or by-pass making the necessary report. This training will provide an overview of the “system” here in California. We will look at a few of the historical roots of child abuse reporting and how it has developed into the current process. To better understand the system response, we will examine the legal underpinnings as well as the current best practices in child abuse investigation. We will approach this topic, however, with as much transparency and open scrutiny as possible in order to provide the participant with the appropriate knowledge of child abuse reporting as well as a realistic view of “what happens next” after the call.

**Date:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021

**Time:** 10:00-11:30amPST

**Location:** Zoom Webinar

**FREE EVENT**

[Register- Click Here](#)

**1.5 CEs for Psychologists, 1.5 BBS California CEUs for Licensed Counselors, Social Workers or Marriage & Family Therapists, and 1.5 CEs for BCBA**

Mary Alvin Nichols is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice. She received her master’s degree in Counseling Psychology from USC in Los Angeles. She was at the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for 28 years as a children’s services worker, supervisor, and administrator II. She was assigned to Stuart House, the UCLA Santa Monica Hospital Rape Treatment Center multidisciplinary team for the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual abuse. She then worked at the DCFS Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect assisting in the coordination of Los Angeles County agencies and stakeholders in the development of policy and services for the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. She was a member of both Los Angeles County’s Child and Domestic Violence Death Review Teams. The last seven years she administered a joint DCFS program with Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health for intensive services for youth with severe emotional needs. Mary has been a frequent trainer for DCFS in domestic violence assessment and joint investigations with law enforcement. She continues as a consultant and trainer in the areas of domestic violence and child abuse.

