

Book Review

Tufford, L. (2020). *Child abuse and neglect in Canada: A guide for mandatory reporting*. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press.

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Lea Tufford, Ph.D., MA, is an assistant professor in the school of social work at Laurentian University, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Tufford's research centers on ethical decision-making of social work practitioners in reporting suspected child abuse and neglect while preserving a working alliance.

The author engages readers to deepen their understanding of child abuse and neglect and mandated reporting in Canada. She leads the reader to conceptualize the ethical and legal implications behind mandated reporting by laying down a solid foundation of the child welfare system in Canada and the implications that mandated reporting has on the well-being of children and youth, specifically the Indigenous child and their family.

The book is organized into 13 comprehensive instructional chapters, each containing learning objectives, case studies, discussion questions, a conclusion, questions for critical reflection, and references that provide additional resources. The author takes a scaffold approach utilizing case studies, discussion, and critical reflection questions to deepen understanding as readers contextualize matters of child abuse and neglect within diverse populations, level of education, social and economic status, and geographic areas within Canada.

Chapters One, Two, and Three provide the reader with a historical overview of the child welfare system and the ethical and legal responsibility of a mandated reporter in Canada. The author includes detailed information to deepen the understanding

of child welfare and legislation that has impacted children, particularly Indigenous children and their families. Also, the author adds the cultural challenges faced by mandated reporters who work where they live and the ethical and legal implications related to reporting suspected child maltreatment, as well as offers strategies for finding balance while fulfilling their statutory duty. The author ends these chapters with critical reflection on the child welfare system, legislation, and legal responsibilities as a mandated reporter.

Chapters Four, Five, Six, and Seven describe the categorization of child abuse, risk, and protective factors that pertain to the child, parents, family, community, and culture. By having a comprehensive, in-depth description of child maltreatment, readers are awakened to the realities of their ethical and legal responsibility as mandated reporters when working with children and their families. With this, readers understand the implication and trauma suffered by children experiencing abuse and neglect as well as the impact online technology has on children's ongoing safety from predators. The author ends these chapters challenging readers to critically reflect their thoughts on child sexual abuse and the need for additional legislation to protect children.

Chapters Eight, Nine, and Ten focus on how mandated reporters are responsible for understanding classifications of disclosures and the process of decision-making involved to report suspected child abuse and neglect to Child Protection Services (CPS). Readers are guided to deepen

their understanding of the types of disclosures and impediments experienced by children and youth and their implications. As readers begin to conceptualize said information, they are led to respond to children and youth who disclose abuse and neglect. The procedures are followed using the mandatory reporting model that guides readers through the decision-making process. Then readers are guided through the necessary steps to report suspected child abuse and neglect to CPS. The author ends these chapters by challenging the reader to reflect critically on the mentioned tasks through discussion questions.

In Chapters Eleven, Twelve, and Thirteen, the author offers strategies to maintain the relationships with clients and their families after a report is made and thereafter. The author validates the mandated reporters' affective, emotional reactions and inference on the relationship with clients while at the same time offering proactive strategies to avoid a rupture in said relationship. These strategies are followed by the process and potential outcomes of the CPS investigation. The author ends with implications on practice, education, policy, and research with recommendations on the need for training, data collection of suspected child abuse and neglect and offers a more profound understanding of decision-making and the disclosure of sexual abuse.

Dr. Tufford concludes the book by offering the reader a plethora of information and resources (i.e., a summary listing of provincial and territorial legislation, child and family service agencies in Canada, incidents, and risk of future harm questions, sample vignettes of child maltreatment, reflection questions and a glossary of terms). The author's integration of scaffolded instructions in each chapter challenges readers to sharpen their focus and understanding of mandated reporting. Readers can apply learning to case studies and the discussion and reflective questions.

The guide for mandatory reporters is practical, organized, and well-focused. The instructional content of the book is linked to social work ethics and values. The National Association of Social Workers *Code of Ethics* preamble outlines the profession's mission to ensure all peoples' well-being in the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice. As mandated reporters, we are charged with the safety and well-being of all children and youth as they are cared for by their parents, resource parents, and foster parents, to name a few.

The book can be used as supplemental and supportive material for social work education as well as practicing social workers and other professionals to enhance their understanding of mandated reporting duties and responsibilities when keeping children and youth safe in Canada and beyond.