Child Abuse Reporting 2

written by Richard Leslie | May 24, 2016

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… A man punches a pregnant woman in the stomach. If the therapist finds out about this in the course of therapy, does this constitute reportable child abuse? Depending upon the interpretation of state laws, the answer may vary. In some states, for example, a fetus is not considered to be a "child" for purposes of the child abuse reporting law, which may define "child" as a "person" under the age of eighteen. Check it out! What is the law in your state?

… How old must a child be before he or she can become an emancipated minor under the applicable law in the state where you practice? More importantly, if you are treating an emancipated minor who is sixteen years of age and she tells you that she was forcibly raped (after emancipation), does this necessitate a mandatory report of child abuse? The answer to the question can possibly be found in the emancipation statutes, which may specify the legal effects of emancipation, or perhaps in the child abuse reporting law itself. Is the emancipated minor a "child" for purposes of the child abuse reporting law? Check it out – be prepared.