

### More information

- The website of the NVLF, Dossier on child abuse and domestic violence, Here you can find the Reporting Code with the accompanying reading guide, a LESA Child Abuse and an article from Speech Therapy & Phoniatrie (2009) on this subject.  
[http://ikbenlogopedist.logopedie.nl/site/dossier\\_kindermishandeling\\_en\\_huiselijk\\_kracht](http://ikbenlogopedist.logopedie.nl/site/dossier_kindermishandeling_en_huiselijk_kracht)
- The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport also pays attention to this theme. The basic model of the reporting code, a toolkit for implementation, a fact sheet and a database for further training can be found on government.nl. The NVLF can also give you names of various training options. <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/huiselijk-vlucht/hulp-bieden/meldcode> <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/huiselijk-kracht/hulp-bieden/toolkit-meldcode>
- Linked-In: there are various groups on Linked-In that discuss child abuse. For example: Attention to child abuse or Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Act.
- You can open a discussion yourself on the NVLF forum.  
<http://ikbenlogopedist.logopedie.nl/forum>



## Reporting code **child abuse** **and domestic violence**

what is it called and what does this  
mean for speech therapy

### Contact

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# Reporting code for child abuse and domestic violence

## what is it and what does this mean for speech therapy

More than 200,000 adults and...  
119,000 children victims.

### Background

The Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Reporting Code Act is expected to come into effect at the beginning of 2013. This law stipulates that professionals in various sectors will work with a reporting code if they receive a signal of domestic violence or child abuse. This includes experts in healthcare, disability care, youth care, education, childcare and justice.

### Definitions of child abuse and domestic violence

*Child abuse is any form of threatening or violent interaction of a physical, psychological or sexual nature for a minor, which is actively or passively imposed by parents or other persons towards whom the minor is in a relationship of dependence or lack of freedom, causing serious harm. is caused or threatens to be caused to the minor in the form of physical or psychological harm. (Youth Care Act, 2005) We would like to point out that child abuse also includes witnessing abuse/domestic violence between other housemates as a child.*

*Domestic violence is violence committed by someone from the victim's home circle. The word 'domestic' says nothing about the place of violence, but about the relationship between perpetrator and victim.*

*Domestic violence can therefore take place both indoors and outdoors.*

*Domestic violence involves physical, sexual and psychological forms of violence. This includes bullying, threats, swearing, abuse and neglect.*

### What does the law require of the speech therapist?

The speech therapist, like other professionals, is held accountable for identifying, diagnosing and tackling child abuse. He will have to be attentive to risk factors, signals and indications and take action to investigate whether child abuse is indeed taking place. Unclear or diffuse signals are a reason to investigate the matter and not to ignore them. Every speech therapist who is confronted with suspicions of child abuse is expected to act in accordance with the step-by-step plan included in this reporting code.

### Contents of the Reporting Code

The current reporting code consists of six parts.

- Part 1 describes the purpose, scope and functions of the reporting code.
- Part 2 describes the responsibilities of the speech therapist.
- Part 3 describes the step-by-step plan.
- Part 4 provides background information about professional secrecy and the relationship between professional secrecy and the step-by-step plan.
- Part 5 is an example of a reporting code for speech therapy practices in primary care.
- Part 6 consists of appendices with additional information, including the Domestic Violence step-by-step plan.

### The step-by-step plan

This step-by-step plan can be generalized to Domestic Violence. Instead of Child Abuse Advice and Reporting Center (AMK), the speech therapist should read Domestic Violence Support Center (SHG) and instead of child abuse, the speech therapist should read domestic violence.

#### Step 1: Investigate/map the signals

#### Step 2: Ask for advice from the AMK (Advice and Reporting Center for Child Abuse) and possibly from an expert colleague)

#### Step 3: If possible, talk to parents

#### Step 4: If necessary, consult with the professionals involved

#### Step 5: Paths of violence

- #### Step 6: Report decisions or organize help. This step consists of two options
- a. Real chance of damage? Report to AMK as soon as possible
  - b. Organize aid and monitor effects