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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ONLINE COURSE INSTRUCTS MANDATORY REPORTERS OF CHILD ABUSE
ABOUT PROPER PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES**

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden said today the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services has created an online class for mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect to use as a guide for when and how to report such cases to the proper authorities. The online class—provided at no cost—is a straightforward, engaging, and convenient way of learning the basics about Nevada's Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law.

“The intent is to provide mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect with a quick course on what they should be looking for and how to report a suspected case of abuse,” Willden said. “The completion of this free one hour online course will better prepare mandatory reporters and average citizens who suspect possible child abuse or neglect to secure help for a child who may need assistance.”

In Nevada, mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect include:

- Social workers
- School personnel
- Medical professionals and health care workers
- Mental health professionals
- Child care providers
- Medical examiners and coroners
- Courts, district attorneys, and law enforcement officers
- Members of the clergy

Failure to report suspected child abuse by a mandatory reporter is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by a fine of no more than \$1,000, or both fine and imprisonment.

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In 2007, there were 23,392 informational referrals of suspected child abuse or neglect filed with various child welfare agencies throughout Nevada. Of these, 15,782 were referred for further investigation.

Suspected child abuse reports should be made to:

- In Clark County, the Clark County Department of Family Services
(702) 399-0081
- In Washoe County, the Washoe County Department of Social Services
(775)785-8600
- In all other Nevada counties, the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services
1-800-992-5757

To complete the online course, go to www.nvpartnership4training.com to register. After completing the registration process, click on “Register for a Class” in the right-side menu, and then scroll down to #5 Online Courses. Sign up for the Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporter Training course by clicking on “Register for this course” on the right-side of the page.

Individual citizens and mandatory reporters can also report suspected abuse or neglect online at http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/DCFS_ReportSuspectedChildAbuse.htm.

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