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City Responsibility in **Reporting Child Abuse**

By Cathy Tyson

publicized child abuse incidents, the Contra Costa Civil along with other cities in Contra 11166.01 about a mandated reommendations about responsibilabuse.

According to Grand Jury report 1403, multiple lawsuits alleging child abuse, and the failure to report suspected instances, have revealed that many employees of public entities, including cities, do not understand their duties to identify and report suspected or known instances of child abuse.

The report blames inadequate personnel in "their legal obligation as mandated reporters." annual training program for staff. Lafayette already has policies and this issue. The report makes recommendations about mandated mandated reporter training.

After some recently well reporters and clarifies what is reasonable suspicion.

Buried in a lot of legal lingo in Grand Jury is asking Lafayette, California Penal Code section Costa County, to respond to rec-porter who fails to report an incident, the penalty is spelled out: ities regarding reporting child "[They] shall be punished by not more than six months in a county jail, by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by both that fine and imprisonment." Failing to report abuse or neglect or impeding the reporting of same where great bodily injury or death occurs can be punished with not more than a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine, or both.

Lafayette already has implemented a policy to train its employees and other personnel about training of employees and other their obligation to identify and report suspected cases of child abuse and has determined which person-Cities are asked to implement an nel are mandated reporters. All employees who are mandated reporters have completed initial procedures in place addressing training, and Parks and Recreation employee orientation includes

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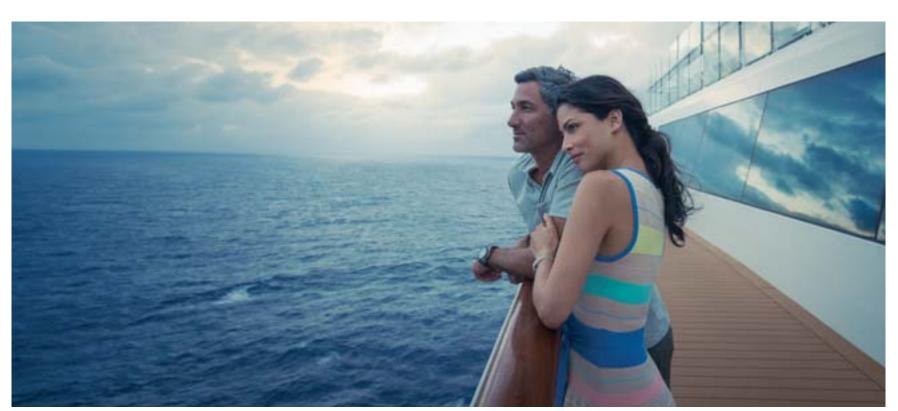
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