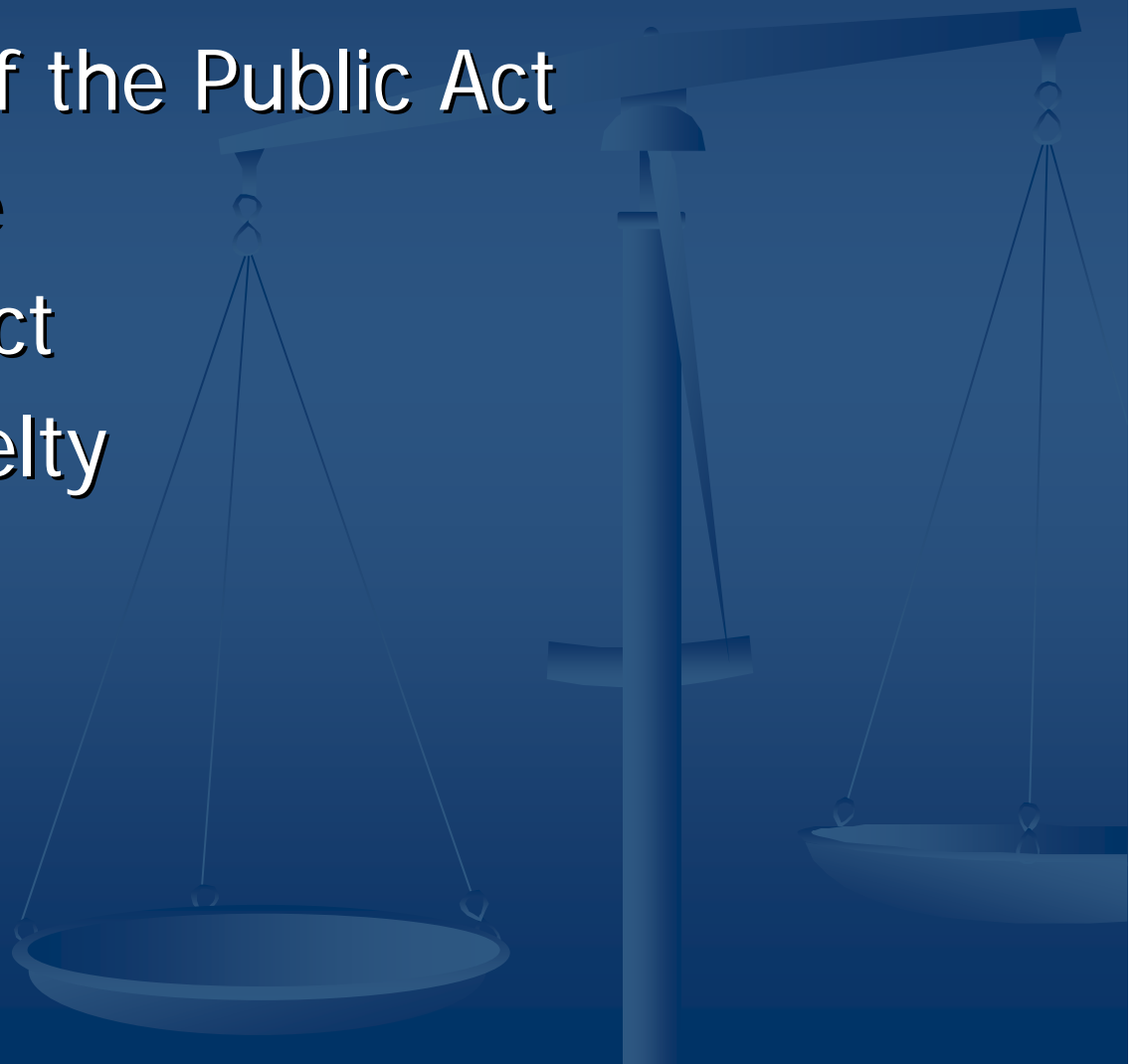
A faint, stylized image of a pair of scales of justice is visible in the background, positioned on the right side of the slide. The scales are rendered in a light blue color, matching the overall theme of the slide. The background is a solid dark blue color.

Public Act No. 11-194
AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS-
REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE
and ANIMAL CRUELTY

An Overview for DCF Social Workers
and
Animal Control Officers

Overview

- Summary of the Public Act
- Child Abuse
- Child Neglect
- Animal Cruelty



Public Act 11-194

- Requires animal control officers, filing a verified petition of neglect or cruel treatment, to make a written report* to the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture no later than 48 hours after filing the petition;
- Requires The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture to send a report* to the Commissioner of Children and Families (DCF) each month;
- Requires that, within a week of receiving the report, the DCF Commissioner shall determine if any address in the report is an address where DCF has opened an investigation of abuse or neglect, and if so: 1. provide the DCF investigator with all relevant information; and, 2. include that information in the Department's record of the child on whose behalf the investigation is occurring.

continued.....

Public Act 11-194, continued...

- Requires DCF staff member who has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is being or has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly, to make an oral report* to the Commissioner of Agriculture, within 48 hours
- Within available appropriations, DCF, in consultation with DoAg, shall provide training to DCF staff members on the identification of, harm to, neglect of, and cruelty toward, animals and the relationship to child welfare case practice.
- Within available appropriations, DCF shall provide training to all animal control officers on the accurate and prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

*see statute for required report content

Source: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/act/pa/2011PA-00194-R00HB-06226-PA.htm>

Child Abuse

- **ABUSE** is:

a non-accidental injury to a child which, regardless of motive, is inflicted or allowed to be inflicted by the person responsible for the child's care

- **ABUSE** includes:

- any injury which is at variance with the history given
- maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment.

- **TYPES OF ABUSE**

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- Emotional Abuse or Maltreatment

Source: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2556&Q=316956>

Physical Abuse

- Physical abuse is any physical injury inflicted other than by accidental means, any injury at variance with the history given of them, or a child's condition which is the result of maltreatment such as malnutrition, deprivation of necessities or cruel punishment.
- Examples include:
 - head injuries
 - bruises, cuts, or lacerations
 - internal injuries
 - burns, scalds
 - reddening or blistering of the tissue through application of heat by fire, chemical substances, cigarettes, matches, electricity, scalding water, friction, etc.
 - injuries to bone, muscle, cartilage, ligaments fractures, dislocations, sprains, strains, displacements, hematomas, etc.
 - death

Source: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2556&Q=316956>

Sexual Abuse/Exploitation

- Sexual Abuse is any incident of sexual contact involving a child that is inflicted or allowed to be inflicted by the person responsible for the child's care.
- Sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - rape
 - intercourse
 - sodomy
 - fondling
 - oral sex
 - incest
 - sexual penetration: digital, penile, or foreign objects.
 - Sexual exploitation of a child includes permitting, allowing, coercing or forcing a child to:
 - participate in pornography
 - engage in sexual behavior.

Source: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2556&Q=316956>

Emotional Abuse

- Emotional abuse or maltreatment is the result of cruel or unconscionable acts and/or statements made, threatened to be made, or allowed, by the person responsible for the child's care, to be made that have a direct effect on the child.
- The observable and substantial impairment of the child's psychological, cognitive, emotional and/or social well-being and functioning must be related to the behavior of the person responsible for the child's care.
 - Emotional abuse or maltreatment may result from:
 - repeated negative acts or statements directed at the child
 - exposure to repeated violent, brutal, or intimidating acts or statements among members of the household
 - cruel or unusual actions used in the attempt to gain submission, enforce maximum control, or to modify the child's behavior
 - rejection of the child.

Source: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2556&Q=316956>

Neglect

- Neglect is the failure, whether intentional or not, of the person responsible for the child's care to provide and maintain adequate food, clothing, medical care, supervision, and/or education.
- A child may be found neglected who:
 - has been abandoned
 - is being denied proper care and attention physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally
 - is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to his well-being
 - is being abused.

Source: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2556&Q=316956>

Physical Neglect

- The following are examples of Physical Neglect:
 - the failure to provide adequate food, shelter, and clothing appropriate to the climatic and environmental conditions
 - the failure to provide, whether intentional or otherwise, supervision or a reliable person(s) to provide child care
 - leaving a child alone for an excessive period of time given the child's age and cognitive abilities
 - holding the child responsible for the care of siblings or others beyond the child's ability
 - the person responsible for the child's care displays erratic or impaired behavior
 - the person responsible for the child's care is unable to consistently perform the minimum of child-caring tasks
 - death.

Source: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2556&Q=316956>

Medical Neglect

- Medical Neglect is:
 - the refusal or failure on the part of the person responsible for the child's care to seek, obtain, and/or maintain those services for necessary medical, dental, or mental health care
 - withholding medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions.

Note: Failure to provide the child with immunizations or routine well child care in and of itself does not constitute medical neglect.

Source: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2556&Q=316956>

Educational Neglect

- Educational Neglect occurs when, by action or inaction, the parent or person having control of a child five (5) years of age and older and under eighteen (18) years of age who is not a high school graduate:
 - Fails to register the child in school
 - Fails to allow the child to attend school or receive home instruction in accordance with Connecticut General Statute §10-184
 - Fails to take appropriate steps to ensure regular attendance at school if the child is registered.

Source: DCF Academy for Family and Workforce Knowledge and Development,

Emotional and Moral Neglect

- Emotional and Moral Neglect is the denial of proper care and attention to the child, emotionally and/or morally, by the person responsible for the child's care that may result in the child's maladaptive functioning.
- Harmful behaviors by the person responsible include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - encouraging the child to steal or engage in other illegal activities
 - encouraging the child to use drugs and/or alcohol
 - recognizing the child's need but failing to provide the child with emotional nurturance
 - having inappropriate expectations of the child given the child's developmental level.
- **Note:** *For court intervention regarding emotional neglect, a statement from a mental health provider documenting the condition is required.*

Source: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2556&Q=316956>

Animal Cruelty

- Types of Animal Cruelty
 - Simple Neglect
 - Abandonment
 - Gross, Willful, Cruel or Malicious Neglect
 - Intentional Abuse, Torture
 - Animal Hoarding
 - Organized Abuse
 - Ritualistic Abuse
 - Animal Sexual Assault (Bestiality)

Source: Liz Burne, Esquire, MSW
DCF Social Worker - Torrington
12/24/12

Animal Cruelty: Simple Neglect

Most common type of Animal Cruelty

- Failure to provide food, water, shelter (wind, rain, sun, and snow) or medical care
- Insect Bites
- Untreated skin sores. Foul body odor.
- Body condition – emaciated to obese.
- Points to consider:
 - Note age of animal, as elderly animals often appear emaciated.
 - Is there clean, adequate shelter but the animal chooses to stand outside? E.g. horses like to nap in the sun
 - Is there species appropriate food in the home?

Source: Liz Burne, Esquire, MSW
DCF Social Worker - Torrington
12/24/12

Animal Cruelty: Abandonment

Common in recent years due to the economy

- Shelters already at capacity
- Families will dump animals outside shelters, at barns/farms, on the side of the road
- Parents tell children the animal ran away or was stolen. Traumatic for child and indicator of need for resources by the family.
- Some families end up with more animals than they can care for due to animals being dumped near them

Source: Liz Burne, Esquire, MSW
DCF Social Worker - Torrington
12/24/12

Types of Animal Cruelty: Gross, Willful, Cruel or Malicious Neglect

- Intentionally withholding food or water necessary to prevent starvation or dehydration.

Source: Liz Burne, Esquire, MSW
DCF Social Worker - Torrington
12/24/12

Animal Cruelty: Intentional Abuse, Torture

- Most likely to involve juveniles
- There is an association with this type of abuse and drug offenses, gang activity, weapons violations, sexual assault, and domestic violence
- May be the most visible part of aggressive or anti-social behavior

Source: Liz Burne, Esquire, MSW
DCF Social Worker - Torrington
12/24/12

Types of Animal Cruelty

- **Animal Hoarding**
- Large number of animals kept under poor conditions, often resulting in disease and death of the animals
- Association with mental health issues
- Extremely high rate of recidivism

Source: Liz Burne, Esquire, MSW
DCF Social Worker - Torrington
12/24/12

Types of Animal Cruelty

- **Organized Abuse – Dog Fighting, Cock Fighting**
- Illegal
- Does not require large space. Occurs in garages, basements or small outbuildings and on street corners
- May see only one or several animals present
- Some may be scarred or appear mutilated (split ears, missing an eye, sharpened spurs on roosters)
- Ears and tails may be cropped/docked
- Associated with crimes involving drugs/alcohol, weapons, as well as assault, gambling, and risk of injury

Source: Liz Burne, Esquire, MSW
DCF Social Worker - Torrington
12/24/12

Types of Animal Cruelty



- **Ritualistic Abuse**
- Animal killed or mutilated
- May be religious in nature, which is protected by US Constitution

Source: Liz Burne, Esquire, MSW
DCF Social Worker - Torrington
12/24/12

Types of Animal Cruelty

- **Animal Sexual Assault (Bestiality)**
- Rare
- Coercive
- Can result in death of the animal

Source: Liz Burne, Esquire, MSW
DCF Social Worker - Torrington
12/24/12

Thank You!

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