

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

For Responding to Child Sexual Abuse

– NATIONAL RESOURCES –

State Reporting Laws

To make a report, state laws require that you have reasonable suspicion that abuse is occurring. This means you do not need proof of sexual abuse to make a “good faith” report to authorities.

- A good faith report means that you have reasonable suspicion of abuse, including any of the following:
 - You witnessed a pattern of boundary violations by an adult or youth.
 - You intervened in boundary violations, and yet the person continues.
 - You received a disclosure of abuse or boundary violation from a child.
 - You see physical signs of abuse.

How to Report Abuse

State laws vary as to who should receive a report of child sexual abuse; sometimes it is the child protection services or the Department of Family and Child Services in your county, or it may be law enforcement or a mandated reporter hotline. The laws of your state may also specify a timeframe that a mandated reporter must report within; it is usually immediately after having reason to believe that a child is being abused or no more than 24 to 48 hours following. Some states may require a written report be submitted as a follow-up to a report made by telephone.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/reporting/mandated/>

Professionals Required to Report Abuse

All states designate certain professionals as mandated reporters, and some states require all citizens to report child abuse. A mandated reporter is required by law to report abuse if there is reasonable suspicion. Check mandatory reporting laws in your state to determine if your profession is included in those required to report. Regardless of the specific mandated reporter laws, all adults must report suspected abuse to protect children.

Most states require that the person who has reasonable suspicion be the one to make the report.

DO NOT delegate this to someone else, even your supervisor.

Helplines

- 1-888-PREVENT
- Darkness to Light 1-866-FOR-LIGHT
- United Way Crisis Helpline 888-421-1266
- ChildHelp USA 1-800-4-A-CHILD

Resources for Victim Advocacy and Justice

- National Center for Victims of Crime 1-202-467-8700
- National Organization for Victim Assistance 1-703-535-6682
- National Association to Protect Children 1-865-525-0901
- CASA <https://www.nationalcasagal.org>

Resources for Survivor Healing

- Find -a-Therapist www.findatherapist.com
- Survivor's Sanctuary <https://sanctuary.metoomvmt.org/>
- 1 in 6 www.1in6.org
- SNAP www.snapnetwork.org

Resources for Child Sexual Abuse Education and Training

- Darkness to Light www.d2l.org
- Stop It Now www.stopitnow.org
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children www.missingkids.org

State and Local Child Advocacy Centers

- National Child Advocacy Center nationalcac.org
- National Children's Alliance nationalchildrensalliance.org

rev. 1/2025
