



Community Health Connections

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Fact Sheet

Reporting Child Abuse

Who can report child abuse?

Anyone can file a report.

Who MUST report child abuse?

Certain people are required by law to make reports of child abuse. People who come into contact with children in the course of their employment, occupation or practice of their profession are REQUIRED by law to report abuse. The report must be made when the person has reasonable cause to suspect abuse on the basis of their medical, professional or other training and experience.

How do you report?

A person who is voluntarily reporting can do so by calling ChildLine, 24 hours a day, at 1-800-932-0313.

A REQUIRED reporter must immediately make a report to ChildLine. The required reporter then must fill out a CY47 form and forward to the agency in the county where the suspected abuse occurred within 48 hours of the call. A copy of the CY47 form can be obtained from ChildLine or Children and Youth Services.

What if the required reporter is an employee?

Required reporters who work in an institution, school, facility or agency must immediately notify the person in charge. The person in charge, or designee, has the responsibility and obligation to contact ChildLine immediately. The person in charge or the designee then notifies the employee when the report has been made.

Is the required reporter protected?

Immunity from civil and criminal liability is given to a person, hospital, institution, school, facility, agency or agency employee that participates in good faith in the making of a report or participating with an investigation.

Is there a penalty for not reporting?

A person who is required to report a case of suspected child abuse and willfully fails to do so can be charged with a misdemeanor of the third degree for the first violation and a misdemeanor of the second degree for subsequent violations.

What laws pertain to protecting children?

The Child Protective Services Law, Act 151, Act 10, Act 127, and Act 179.

Important Numbers to Know:

ChildLine 1-800-932-0313

Western Region Office of Children Youth and Families
412-565-2339

County Children and Youth Services(CYS)
Armstrong County CYS 724-548-3466
Beaver County CYS 724-891-5800

Butler County CYS 724-284-5156
Clarion County CYS 814-226-9280
Crawford County CYS 814-724-8380
Indiana County CYS 724-465-3895
Lawrence County CYS 724-658-2558
Mercer County CYS 724-662-2703
Venango County CYS 814-432-9743

For more information on the Pennsylvania Child Protective System contact:

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance at 1-800-448-4906 or www.pa-fsa.org