COMMUNITY RESOURCES
FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Alabama

CALL TO REPORT ABUSE
Contact the Alabama Dept. of Children Protective Services at 334-242-9500 or any Law Enforcement Agency at 911. You are not required to provide proof. Anyone who makes a good faith report based on reasonable grounds is immune from prosecution. If the abuse occurred within the past 72 hours, a medical evaluation by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is available by going to the Emergency Department at Your County Medical Center or by going to the nearest child advocacy center.

HELPLINES
United Way Crisis Helpline
Childhelp: USA National Child Abuse Hotline
Darkness to Light Helpline

1-866- FOR-LIGHT

(1-866-367-5444)

1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Legal Help
AL State Bar

334-269-1515

Victim Advocacy
Calhoun/Cleburne’s Children’s Center
Crisis Services of North Alabama

256-238-0902

256-716-1000

RESOURCES FOR HEALING
Treatment Providers
AL Department of Mental Health

1-800-367-0955

Support groups for survivors and for parents and families of children who have been abused
The Daybreak Crisis Recovery Center

256-237-6300

1-800-656-HOPE (24 Hours)

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND/OR TRAUMA

www.D2L.org
www.trauma-pages.com
www.stopitnow.com

1-843-965-5444

1-888-PREVENT

(1-888-773-8368)
HOW TO REPORT IN ALABAMA

Make a report to the chief of police or sheriff, or to the Department of Human Resources.

When a report is made to a law enforcement official, he or she must inform the department so that protective services to the child or children involved may be provided. You are also to follow up your oral report with a written one. The Department of Human Resources has a form for your written report.

STATE REPORTING LAWS
https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/manda.cfm

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT
Ala. Code § 26-14-3
Reports are required from all of the following:
• Hospitals, clinics, sanitariums, doctors, physicians, surgeons, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, osteopaths, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, pharmacists, physical therapists, and nurses
• Public and private K-12 employees, teachers, and school officials
• Peace officers and law enforcement officials
• Social workers
• Daycare workers or employees
• Mental health professionals
• Employees of public and private institutions of postsecondary and higher education
• Members of the clergy
• Any other person called upon to render aid or medical assistance to a child

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS
Ala. Code § 26-14-4
Any other person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected may report.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT
Ala. Code § 26-14-3
A report must be made when the child is known or suspected of being a victim of abuse or neglect.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS
Ala. Code §§ 26-14-3; 26-14-10
Only clergy-penitent and attorney-client privileges are permitted.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER’S NAME IN REPORT
The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY
Ala. Code § 26-14-8
The department will not release the identity of the reporter except under court order when the court has determined that the reporter knowingly made a false report.