

# 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	888-421-1266 211 (after hours)
Childhelp: USA National Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)
Darkness to Light Helpline	1-866- FOR-LIGHT (1-866-367-5444)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### Legal Help

AL State Bar 334-269-1515

#### Victim Advocacy

Calhoun/Cleburne's Children's Center 256-238-0902  
Crisis Services of North Alabama 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](http://www.D2L.org) 1-843-965-5444  
[www.trauma-pages.com](http://www.trauma-pages.com)  
[www.stopitnow.com](http://www.stopitnow.com) 1-888-PREVENT  
(1-888-773-8368)

THERE ARE SEVERAL CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

Feel free to call the center with any questions about where to find resources related to child sexual abuse. Contact the nearest CAC to set up an interview if abuse is reported:

**Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers**  
334-834-3468

Find the CAC in your county here:  
<http://alabamacacs.org/index.php/find-a-child-advocacy-center>

**Child Protect**  
334-262-1220  
935 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

# MANDATED REPORTING

## Alabama

### STATE REPORTING LAWS

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/statutes/manda.cfm](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.

### 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.