

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## CONNECTICUT

### CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Contact the Connecticut Dept. of Children & Family Service at **800-842-2288** 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

CT Carline (24 hour)	1-800-842-2288
The Center Crisis Hotline (24 hour)	203-329-2929
Rape Crisis Hotline	203-333-2233
United Way Crisis Helpline (24 hour)	888-421-1266 211(after hours)
Darkness to Light Helpline	1-866- FOR-LIGHT (1-866-367-5444)
Childhelp: USA National Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### Legal Help

CT State Bar	860-223-4400
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#### Victim Advocacy

The Center for Women & Families	203-334-6154
Community Child Guidance Clinic	860-643-2101
The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling & Education	203-348-9346

### RESOURCES FOR HEALING

#### Treatment Providers

CT Department of Mental Health	1-860-418-7000
Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis	203-624-2600

#### Support groups for survivors and for parents and families of children who have been abused

Community Child Guidance Clinic	860-643-2101
YWCA of New Britain	860-225-4681

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

<a href="http://www.darkness2light.org">www.darkness2light.org</a>	1-843-965-5444
<a href="http://www.trauma-pages.com">www.trauma-pages.com</a>	
<a href="http://www.stopitnow.com">www.stopitnow.com</a>	1-888-PREVENT (1-888-773-8368)

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

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:

**Center for Children's Advocacy**  
65 Elizabeth St  
Hartford, CT 06105  
860-570-5327

**Children's Advocacy Center at  
Saint Francis**  
1000 Asylum Ave, Suite 1020  
Hartford, CT 06105  
860-714-4000

# MANDATED REPORTING

## CONNECTICUT

### CONNECTICUT 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

*Gen. Stat. §§ 17a-101; 53a-65*

The following persons are required to report:

- Physicians, surgeons, residents, interns, nurses, medical examiners, dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, physician assistants, pharmacists, or physical therapists; emergency medical services providers; psychologists or other mental health professionals; alcohol and drug counselors, marital and family therapists, professional counselors, sexual assault counselors, or domestic violence counselors
- School employees, as defined by § 53a-65
- Social workers; police officers, juvenile or adult probation officers, or parole officers
- Members of the clergy
- Licensed foster parents
- Any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, child daycare center, group daycare home, or family daycare home that is licensed by the State
- Employees of the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Public Health who are responsible for the licensing of child daycare centers, group daycare homes, family daycare homes, or youth camps
- The Child Advocate and any employee of the Office of Child Advocate
- Family relations counselor trainees or family services supervisors employed by the Judicial Department

The term 'school employee' includes teachers, substitute teachers, school administrators, school superintendents, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, physicians, school paraprofessionals, or coaches employed by a local or regional board of education or a private elementary, middle, or high school or any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students.

### INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Gen. Stat. §§ 17a-101b(d); 17a-101e(a)*

Whenever a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child has been abused or neglected by a member of the staff of a public or private institution or facility that provides care for such child or a public or private school, the mandated reporter shall report as required by law. The Commissioner of Children and Families or the commissioner's designee shall notify the principal, headmaster, executive director, or other person in charge of the institution, facility, or school, or the person's designee, unless that person is the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect of the child. In the case of a public school, the commissioner also shall notify the person's employing superintendent. The person in charge, or the person's designee, then shall immediately notify the child's parent or other person responsible for the child's care that a report has been made. No employer shall discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against any employee who in good faith makes a report of child abuse or neglect, testifies, or is about to testify in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect, or hinder or prevent, or attempt to hinder or prevent, any employee from making a report as required or testifying in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect. (Continued on following page)

### HOW TO REPORT IN CONNECTICUT

Mandated reporters must report orally to the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Hotline (1-800-842-2288) or a law enforcement agency within 12 hours of suspecting that a child has been abused or neglected and must submit a written report (DCF-136 form) to DCF within 48 hours of making the oral report.

To request required mandated reporter training:

[http://www.dir.ct.gov/dcf/TA/MRT\\_video\\_form.aspx](http://www.dir.ct.gov/dcf/TA/MRT_video_form.aspx)

# MANDATED REPORTING

## STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Gen. Stat. § 17a-101a*

A report is required when, in the ordinary course of his or her employment or profession, a reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under age 18 has been abused or neglected, has had a nonaccidental physical injury or any injury that is at variance with the history given of the injury, or is placed at imminent risk of serious harm.

## INCLUSION OF REPORTER'S NAME IN REPORT

*Gen. Stat. §§ 17a-101d; 17a-103*

The reporter is not specifically required by statute to include his or her name in the report. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall use his or her best efforts to obtain the name and address of the reporter.

## DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY

*Gen. Stat. § 17a-28(f)*

The name of an individual reporting suspected child abuse or neglect, or cooperating with an investigation of child abuse or neglect, shall be kept confidential upon request or upon determination by the department that disclosure of such information may be detrimental to the safety or interests of the individual.

When there is reasonable cause to believe that the reporter knowingly made a false report, however, the name of any such individual shall be disclosed to:

- An employee of the department for reasons reasonably related to the business of the department
- A law enforcement officer for purposes of investigating abuse or neglect of a child or youth
- A State's attorney for purposes of investigating or prosecuting abuse or neglect of a child or youth
- An assistant attorney general or other legal counsel representing the department
- A judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties in a court proceeding pursuant to § 17a-112 or 46b-129, or a criminal prosecution involving child abuse or neglect
- A State child care licensing agency
- The executive director of any institution, school, or facility or superintendent of schools pursuant to § 17a-101i