

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Contact the Child and Family Services Agency at **202-671-7233** or any Law Enforcement Agency at **911**. When reporting abuse, it is unnecessary to provide proof. Persons who make a good faith report based on reasonable grounds are immune from prosecution. If the abuse occurred within the past 72 hours, it is important for the child to be seen immediately by a doctor who specializes in trauma examinations.

### HELPLINES

Sexual Assault Crisis Center Hotline (24 hour)	410-222-7273
DC Rape Crisis Center Hotline (24 hours)	202-333-7273
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

DC Bar Association	202-737-4700
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### RESOURCES FOR HEALING

#### Treatment Providers

Child and Adolescent Protection Center at Children's National Medical Center	202-476-4100
George Washington University Community Counseling services	202-994-8645
<b>Support groups for survivors and for parents and families of children who have been abused</b> Hillcrest Children's Center	202-232-6100

### 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)

### CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER IN THE D.C. AREA.

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:

**Safe Shores  
The DC Children's' Advocacy  
Center (DCCAC)**  
202-645-3200

# MANDATED REPORTING

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### D.C. AREA 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

*Ann. Code § 4-1321.*

Persons required to report include:

- Child and Family Services Agency employees, agents, and contractors
- Physicians, psychologists, medical examiners, dentists, chiropractors, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, or persons involved in the care and treatment of patients
- Law enforcement officers or humane officers of any agency charged with the enforcement of animal cruelty laws
- School officials, teachers, or athletic coaches
- Department of Parks and Recreation employees, public housing resident managers, social service workers, or daycare workers
- Human trafficking counselors
- Domestic violence counselors or mental health professionals

### INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Ann. Code § 4-1321.02*

Whenever a person is required to report in his or her capacity as a member of the staff of a hospital, school, social agency, or similar institution, he or she shall immediately notify the person in charge of the institution or his or her designated agent who shall then be required to make the report. The fact that such a notification has been made does not relieve the person who was originally required to report from his or her duty to report.

### STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Ann. Code § 4-1321.02*

A report is required when:

- A mandated reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to him or her in his or her professional or official capacity has been or is in immediate danger of being a mentally or physically abused or neglected child.
- A health professional, law enforcement officer, or humane officer, except an undercover officer whose identity or investigation might be jeopardized, has reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused as a result of inadequate care, control, or subsistence in the home environment due to exposure to drug-related activity.
- A mandated reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to him or her in his or her professional or official capacity has been, or is in immediate danger of being, the victim of sexual abuse or attempted sexual abuse; the child was assisted, supported, caused, encouraged, commanded, enabled, induced, facilitated, or permitted to become a prostitute; the child has an injury caused by a bullet; or the child has an injury caused by a knife or other sharp object that was caused by other than accidental means.
- A licensed health professional who in his or her own professional or official capacity knows that a child under 12 months of age is diagnosed as having a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

### PRIVELEDGED COMMUNICATIONS

*Ann. Code §§ 4-1321.02(b); 4-1321.05*

A mandated reporter is not required to report when employed by a lawyer who is providing representation in a criminal, civil (including family law), or delinquency matter, and the basis for the suspicion arises solely in the course of that representation. Neither the husband-wife nor the physician-patient privilege is permitted.

### INCLUSION OF REPORTERS NAME IN REPORT

*Ann. Code § 4-1321.03*

Mandated reporters are required to provide their names, occupations, and contact information.

### DISCLOSURE OF REPORTERS IDENTITY

*Ann. Code § 4-1321.03*

The Child Protection Register staff shall not release any information that identifies the source of a report or the witnesses to the incident referred to in a report to the alleged perpetrator of the abuse, the child's parent or guardian, or a child-placing agency investigating a foster or adoptive placement, unless said staff first obtains permission from the source of the report or from the witnesses named in the report.

### HOW TO REPORT IN THE D.C. AREA

In the District of Columbia, anyone age 18 or older who knows about or suspects that a child is being sexually abused must call the police at 911 or the CFSA Child Abuse and Neglect hotline at **202-671-SAFE(7233)**. Failure to report sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or sexual performance that uses minors could result in a fine or imprisonment.

**For mandated reporter training:**

<https://dc.mandatedreporter.org/pages/Welcome.action>