

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

FLORIDA

CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Contact the Florida Dept. of Children & Family Service at **800-96-ABUSE(22873)** 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

Florida Abuse Hotline(24 hour)	1-800-962-2873
Sexual Assault Hotline(24 hour)	407-497-6701
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

FL State Bar 850-561-5600

Victim Advocacy

Office of the State Attorney Victim Advocate Program 888-502-5668

RESOURCES FOR HEALING

Treatment Providers

Manatee Glens Children's Crisis Center 941-782-4617
FL Department of Mental Health 850-487-1111

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

Bridgeway Center, Inc. 850-833-7500

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

www.darkness2light.org 1-843-965-5444

www.trauma-pages.com

www.stopitnow.com

1-888-PREVENT
(1-888-773-8368)

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

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:

**Children's Advocacy Center of
Hernando County**
880 Kennedy Blvd.
Brooksville, FL 34601
352-754-8809

**Florida Network of Children's
Advocacy Centers**
2940 East Park Ave, Suite A
Tallahassee, FL 32301
850-671-4791

MANDATED REPORTING

FLORIDA

FLORIDA STATE REPORTING LAWS

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

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

Ann. Stat. § 39.201

The following persons are mandated reporters:

- Physicians, osteopaths, medical examiners, chiropractors, nurses, or hospital personnel
- Other health or mental health professionals
- Practitioners who rely solely on spiritual means for healing
- Teachers or other school officials or personnel
- Social workers, daycare center workers, or other professional child care, foster care, residential, or institutional workers
- Law enforcement officers or judges

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

Ann. Stat. § 39.201

Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare or that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care, shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department. Any person who knows or who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused by an adult other than a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department. Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is the victim of childhood sexual abuse or the victim of a known or suspected juvenile sexual offender shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

Ann. Stat. § 39.201

A report is required when:

- A person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected.
- A person knows that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

Ann. Stat. § 39.204

Only clergy-penitent and attorney-client privileges are permitted.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER'S NAME IN REPORT

Ann. Stat. § 39.201

Professionals who are mandated reporters are required to provide their names to hotline staff

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY

Ann. Stat. §§ 39.201; 39.202

The names of reporters shall be entered into the record of the report but shall be held confidential. The name of the reporter may not be released to any person other than employees of the Department of Children and Family Services responsible for child protective services, the central abuse hotline, law enforcement, the child protection team, or the appropriate State attorney, without the written consent of the person reporting. This does not prohibit the serving of a subpoena to a person reporting child abuse, abandonment, or neglect when deemed necessary by the court, the State attorney, or the department, provided the fact that such person made the report is not disclosed

HOW TO REPORT IN FLORIDA

To make a report you can report online at <https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/>, call 1-800-962-2873, use 711 for Florida Relay Service, or fax your report to 1-800-914-0004.

If you suspect or know of a child in immediate danger, call 911.