COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

GEORGIA

CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Georgia Child Protective Services Information Center
To make a report of abuse: 1-855-GA-CHILD (1-855-422-4453)

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia Helpline: 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373) supports families and parents and connects them with appropriate resources in their community. It offers information about child abuse, family violence, counseling and support groups. Bilingual (Spanish/English) call center is open Mon-Fri from 8am-7pm.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Children’s Advocacy Centers of Georgia
P. O. Box 1192
Decatur, GA 30031-1192
www.cacga.org

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
104 Marietta Street, Suite 440
Atlanta, GA 30303
Victim Services:
www.cjcc.georgia.gov

Darkness to Light
1064 Gardner Road
Suite 210
Charleston, SC 29407
www.darkness2light.org

Georgia Bureau of Investigations
Georgia’s Sex Offender Registry
www.gbi.georgia.gov/georgia-sex-offender-registry

Georgia Department of Human Resources
Division of Family and Children Services
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 18-486
Atlanta, GA 30303
http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site

National Children’s Alliance
516 C Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
www.nca-online.org

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia
Center for Healthy Development
Georgia State University
www.preventchildabusega.org

Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy
Children at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta - Hughes Spalding
35 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr. SE
Atlanta, GA 30303

Northside Professional Center
975 Johnson Ferry Rd. NE, Suite 350
Atlanta, GA 30342
www.choa.org

United Way 211
100 Edgewood Ave., NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
http://www.unitedwayatl.org/e0-211.asp

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

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 Centers of Georgia
P. O. Box 1192
Decatur, GA 30031-1192
Tel: (770)319-6888
www.cacga.org
HOW TO REPORT IN GEORGIA

Georgia law requires anyone who works or volunteers at a child-serving agency to report suspected child abuse or neglect within 24 hours (O.C.G.A. 19-7-5). Frequently hospitals, schools and other facilities have an internal child abuse report protocol. You should be aware of this protocol and follow it.

For instance, there may be a designated reporter like the child care center director who is charged with making reports to DFCS. Each organization will handle this in their own way to assure that accurate reports are made in a timely fashion.

If a mandated reporter informs the agency’s designated reporter of suspected abuse, the mandated reporter has fulfilled their obligation under the law.

To make a report, call the Georgia Child Protective Services Information Center: 1-855-GA-CHILD (1-855-422-4453). If you feel the child is in immediate danger, call 911.

You can also make a report of suspected abuse online. The Georgia Mandated Reporter Form is to be used by mandated reporters who wish to report electronically, go to:

http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/webform/georgia-child-protective-services-mandated-reporter-form

GEORGIA LAW

The sexual abuse of children is defined as and may include:

- A person employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing or coercing any minor who is not that person’s spouse to engage in any sexual act
- Sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex
- Bestiality or masturbation
- Lewd exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person
- Flagellation or torture by or upon a person who is nude
- Condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained on the part of the person who is nude
- Physical contact in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or gratification with any person’s clothed or unclothed genitals, pubic area, or buttocks or with a female’s clothed or unclothed breasts
- Defecation or urination for the purpose of sexual stimulation
- Penetration of the vagina or rectum by any object except when done as part of a recognized medical procedure
- Commercial sexual exploitation of children

STATUTORY RAPE

(OCGA 16-6-3)

is defined and may include:

- Sexual intercourse with any person under the age of 16 years
- A person 21 years of age or older convicted of statutory rape shall be imprisoned for a minimum of 10 and up to 20 years
- If the victim is 14 or 15 years of age and the person convicted is no more than 3 years older than the victim, the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor
- It does not matter if the victim or perpetrator is male or female
- It does not matter if the perpetrator is unaware of the victim’s age
- It does not matter if the sex is consensual
GEORGIA MANDATED REPORTERS

Suspected child abuse which is required to be reported by any person pursuant to this Code section shall be reported unless the reasonable cause to believe such abuse has occurred or is occurring is based upon any communication to that person which is otherwise made privileged or confidential by law.

The following persons having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall report or cause reports of that abuse to be made as provided in this Code section:

- Physicians licensed to practice medicine, interns, or residents;
- Hospital or medical personnel;
- Dentists;
- Licensed psychologists and persons participating in internships to obtain licensing;
- Podiatrists;
- Registered professional nurses or licensed practical nurses or nurse's aides;
- Professional counselors, social workers, or marriage and family therapists licensed;
- School teachers; School administrators; School guidance counselors; visiting teachers; school social workers; or school psychologists;
  - School means any public or private pre-kindergarten, elementary school, secondary school, technical school, vocational school, college, university, or institution of postsecondary education.
- Child welfare agency personnel, as that agency is defined pursuant to Code Section 49-5-12;
- Child-counseling personnel;
- Child service organization personnel defined as persons employed by or volunteering at a business or an organization, whether public, private, for profit, not for profit, or voluntary, that provides care, treatment, education, training supervision, coaching, counseling, recreational programs or shelters to children
- Law enforcement personnel;
- Clergy means ministers, priests, rabbis, imams, or similar functionaries by whatever name called, or a bona fide religious organization
  - Exception: provided, however, that a member of the clergy shall not be required to report child abuse reported solely within the context of confession or other similar communication required to be kept confidential under church doctrine or practice.
  - Exception: When a clergy member receives information about child abuse from any other source, the clergy member shall comply with the reporting requirements of this Code section, even though the clergy member may have also received a report of child abuse from the confession of the perpetrator.
- Reproductive health care facility or pregnancy resource center personnel and volunteers.
  - Pregnancy Resource Centers means an organization or facility that provides pregnancy counseling or information as its primary purpose, either for a fee or as a free service; does not provide or refer for abortions; does not provide or refer for FDA DRUGS approved contraceptive or devices; and is not licensed or certified by the state or federal government to provide medical or health care services and is not otherwise bound to follow federal Health Insurance and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L.104-191, or other state or federal laws relating to patient confidentiality.
  - Reproductive health care facilities mean any office, clinic or any other physical location that provides abortions, abortion counseling, abortion referrals or gynecological care and services.