

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	(770) 319-6888
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council 104 Marietta Street, Suite 440 Atlanta, GA 30303 Victim Services: www.cjcc.georgia.gov	(404) 657-2222
Darkness to Light 1064 Gardner Road Suite 210 Charleston, SC 29407 www.darkness2light.org	(843) 965-5444 1-866-For-Light
Georgia Bureau of Investigations Georgia's Sex Offender Registry www.gbi.georgia.gov/georgia-sex-offender-registry	(404) 270-8465
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	(404) 651-9361 (404) 651-9361 (Child Protective Services) (404) 657-3780 (Domestic Violence) (404) 651-9361 (Foster Care Placement)
National Children's Alliance 516 C Street, NE Washington, DC 20002 www.nca-online.org	(202) 548-0090
Prevent Child Abuse Georgia Center for Healthy Development Georgia State University www.preventchildabusegeorgia.org	(404) 413-1419
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	(404) 785-9930
Northside Professional Center 975 Johnson Ferry Rd. NE, Suite 350 Atlanta, GA 30342 www.choa.org	(404) 785-3820
United Way 211 100 Edgewood Ave., NE Atlanta, GA 30303 http://www.unitedwayatl.org/e0-211.asp	(404) 527-7200

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

MANDATED REPORTING

GEORGIA

When responding to child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children, it is important to consult with professionals in the field. The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy has compiled state law as well as community resources to help you protect children. The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy remains available should you need assistance navigating these resources.

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

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>

MANDATED REPORTING

GEORGIA

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.