

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

MISSISSIPPI

CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Contact the Mississippi Dept. of Child Protective Services at **800-222-8000** 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

Child Neglect & Abuse Hotline (24 hour)	1-800-222-8000
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

MS State Bar	601-948-4471
Rankin County Board of Supervisors	601-825-1475

Victim Advocacy

Our House, Inc.	662-332-5683
The Child Abuse Prevention Center	228-868-8686

RESOURCES FOR HEALING

Treatment Providers

MS Department of Mental Health	1-877-210-8513
Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence	228-436-3809

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

Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence	228-436-3809
Wesley House Community Center	601-485-4736

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 MISSISSIPPI.

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 Mississippi

601-940-6183

Visit

<http://mississippi.nationalchildrensalliance.org/index.php?s=2724> to find the CAC near you

The South Mississippi Child Advocacy Center

2315 17th St

Gulfport, MS 39501

228-868-8686

MANDATED REPORTING

MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI STATE REPORTING LAWS

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

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

Ann. Code § 43-21-353

The following professionals are required to report:

- Physicians, dentists, interns, residents, or nurses
- Public or private school employees or child care givers
- Psychologists, social workers, family protection workers, or family protection specialists
- Attorneys, ministers, or law enforcement officers

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

Ann. Code § 43-21-353

All other persons who have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused or neglected must report.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

Ann. Code § 43-21-353

A report is required when a person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused or neglected.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER'S NAME IN REPORT

Ann. Code § 43-21-353

The department's report shall include the name and address of all witnesses, including the reporter if he or she is a material witness to the abuse.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY

Ann. Code § 43-21-353

The identity of the reporting party shall not be disclosed to anyone other than law enforcement officers or prosecutors without an order from the appropriate youth court. The identity of the reporter shall not be disclosed to an individual under investigation.

HOW TO REPORT IN MISSISSIPPI

If the report is not an emergency, use the online referral system:

<https://www.msabusehotline.mdhs.ms.gov/>

To call Mississippi Centralized Intake instead of using the online referral system: Centralized Intake at 1-800-222-8000 (Nationwide) or (601) 432-4570 if:

- The situation you are reporting is an emergency;
- You prefer to remain anonymous;
- You have insufficient data to complete the required fields using the online reporting system; or
- The suspected abuse/neglect you are reporting occurred outside the state of Mississippi, and you do not know how to contact the state where it occurred.