

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

SOUTH CAROLINA

CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Contact the SC State Government: Child Protective Services at **843-953-9400** 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

Trident United Way Crisis Helpline (24 hour)	888-421-1266 211(after hours)
People Against Rape: Domestic Violence and Rape Helpline (24 hour)	1-800-241-7273
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

Our State Bar	(803)799-6653
Justice for Children	1-800-733-0059

Victim Advocacy

State Office of Victim Assistance	1-800-220-5370
State Guardian ad Litem Program	1-800-277-0113

RESOURCES FOR HEALING

Treatment Providers

S.C. Department of Mental Health	(803) 898-8581
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Support groups for survivors and for parents and families of children who have been abused

Call Dept. of Mental Health for current group listings in your area	(803) 898-8581
Call Sexual Assault Hotline for current group listings in your area	1-800-656-4673

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 SOUTH
CAROLINA.

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:

**South Carolina Network of
Child Advocacy Centers (CAC)**
1600 Hampton Street
Suite 502
Columbia, SC 29208
(803)-898-1475

MANDATED REPORTING

SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORTING LAWS

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

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

Ann. Code § 63-7-310

The following professionals are required to report:

- Physicians, nurses, dentists, optometrists, medical examiners, or coroners
- Employees of county medical examiner's or coroner's offices
- Any other medical, emergency medical services, mental health, or allied health professionals
- Members of the clergy, including Christian Science practitioners or religious healers
- School teachers, counselors, principals, assistant principals, or school attendance officers
- Social or public assistance workers, substance abuse treatment staff, or child care workers in a child care center or foster care facility
- Foster parents
- Police or law enforcement officers or juvenile justice workers
- Undertakers, funeral home directors, or employees of a funeral home
- Persons responsible for processing films or computer technicians
- Judges
- Volunteer non-attorney guardians ad litem serving on behalf of the South Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Program or the Richland County Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

Ann. Code § 63-7-310

Except as provided above, a person, including, but not limited to, a volunteer non-attorney guardian ad litem serving on behalf of the South Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Program or the Richland County CASA, who has reason to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse and neglect may report, and is encouraged to report, in accordance with this section.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

Ann. Code § 63-7-310

A report is required when a reporter, in his or her professional capacity, receives information that gives him or her reason to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

Ann. Code § 63-7-420

The privileged quality of communication between husband and wife and any professional person and his or her patient or client, except that between attorney and client or clergy member, including a Christian Science practitioner or religious healer, and penitent, does not constitute grounds for failure to report. However, a clergy member, including a Christian Science practitioner or religious healer, must report in accordance with this sub-article except when information is received from the alleged perpetrator of the abuse and neglect during a communication that is protected by the clergy and penitent privilege as provided for in § 19-11-90.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER'S NAME IN REPORT

The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY

Ann. Code § 63-7-330

The identity of the person making a report pursuant to this section must be kept confidential by the agency or department receiving the report and must not be disclosed, except as specifically provided for in statute.

HOW TO REPORT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Call the county Department of Social Services (DSS) office where the child resides. A trained staff member will assist the person to make a report and assess the information to determine if it meets screening criteria for investigation.

Reports also can be made to a local law enforcement office who will contact DSS to coordinate an investigation.

To find your county DSS office contact information:
dss.sc.gov/content/about/counties/index.aspx
For Mandated Reporter Training:
<http://childlaw.sc.edu/mandate/>