

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## TENNESSEE

### CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Contact the Tennessee Dept. of Children's Services **877-237-0004** 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

Report Child Abuse & Neglect	1-877-237-0004 1-877-54ABUSE (1-877-542-2873)
The Link Crisis Hotline	1-800-472-9411
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

TN State Bar 615-383-7421

#### Victim Advocacy

Childhelp Children's Center of East Tennessee 865-637-1753

### RESOURCES FOR HEALING

#### Treatment Providers

Centerstone of Tennessee 888-291-4357  
TN Dept of Mental Health 615-532-6500

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

Community Health of East Tennessee 423-562-1156

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

[www.darkness2light.org](http://www.darkness2light.org) 1-843-965-5444

[www.trauma-pages.com](http://www.trauma-pages.com)

[www.stopitnow.com](http://www.stopitnow.com)

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

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

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:

**Tennessee Chapter of  
Children's Advocacy Centers**  
1266 Foster Ave  
Nashville, TN 37210  
615-327-9450

**15th Judicial District Child  
Advocacy Center**  
Lebanon, TN 37088  
615-449-7975

# MANDATED REPORTING

## TENNESSEE

### TENNESSEE STATE REPORTING LAWS

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/statutes/manda.cfm](https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/manda.cfm)

### PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

*Ann. Code §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605*

Persons required to report include:

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

### REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Ann. Code §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605*

Any person who has knowledge that a child has been harmed by abuse or neglect must report.

### INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Ann. Code § 37-1-403*

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any hospital, clinic, school, or other organization responsible for the care of children from developing a specific procedure for internally tracking, reporting, or otherwise monitoring a report made by a member of the organization's staff, including requiring a member of the organization's staff who makes a report to provide a copy of or notice concerning the report to the organization, so long as the procedure does not inhibit, interfere with, or otherwise affect the duty of a person to make a report as required by law. Nothing in this section shall prevent staff of a hospital or clinic from gathering sufficient information, as determined by the hospital or clinic, in order to make an appropriate medical diagnosis or to provide and document care that is medically indicated and is needed to determine whether to report an incident as defined in this part. Those activities shall not interfere with nor serve as a substitute for any investigation by law enforcement officials or the department. However, if any hospital, clinic, school, or other organization responsible for the care of children develops a procedure for internally tracking, reporting, or otherwise monitoring a report, the identity of the person who made a report of harm shall be kept confidential.

*(continued on the following page)*

### HOW TO REPORT IN TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Child Abuse Hotline is a call center accepting all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect for the state of Tennessee.

Phone: 1-877-237-0004

# MANDATED REPORTING

## STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Ann. Code §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605*

A report is required when:

- A person has knowledge that a child has been harmed by abuse or neglect.
- A person is called upon to render aid to any child who is suffering from an injury that reasonably appears to have been caused by abuse.
- A person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused.

shall immediately upon knowledge of such information notify the Department of Children's Services or law enforcement official of the abuse or alleged abuse.

- A physician diagnoses or treats any sexually transmitted disease in a child age 13 or younger or diagnoses pregnancy in an un-emancipated minor. Any school official, personnel, employee, or member of the board of education who is aware of a report or investigation of employee misconduct on the part of any employee of the school system that in any way involves known or alleged child abuse, including, but not limited to, child physical or sexual abuse or neglect, shall immediately upon knowledge of such information notify the Department of Children's Services or law enforcement official of the abuse or alleged abuse.

## PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

*Ann. Code § 37-1-411*

The following privileges may not be claimed:

- Husband-wife
- Psychiatrist-patient or psychologist-patient

## 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 § 37-1-409*

Except as may be ordered by the juvenile court, the name of any person reporting child abuse or neglect shall not be released to any person, other than employees of the department or other child protection team members responsible for child protective services, the abuse registry, or the appropriate district attorney general upon subpoena of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, without the written consent of the person reporting. The reporter's identity shall be irrelevant to any civil proceeding and shall, therefore, not be subject to disclosure by order of any court. This shall not prohibit the issuance of a subpoena to a person reporting child abuse when deemed necessary by the district attorney general or the department to protect a child who is the subject of a report, provided that the fact that the person made the report is not disclosed.