COMMUNITY RESOURCES
FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

VERMONT

CALL TO REPORT ABUSE
Contact the Vermont Dept. of Children & Family Service at 800-649-5285 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 Protection Hotline (24 hour) 1-800-649-5285
United Way Crisis Helpline (24 hour) 888-421-1266
211 (after hours)
Sexual Assault Crisis Team (24 hour) 802-479-5577
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
VT State Bar 802-223-2020
Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations 802-652-0391
Children’s Advocacy

Victim Advocacy
VT Center for Crime Victim Services 1-800-750-1213

RESOURCES FOR HEALING
Treatment Providers
VT Department of Mental Health 802-828-3824

Support groups for survivors and for parents and families of children who have been abused
Safeline 1-800-639-7233
AWARE 802-472-6463

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND/OR TRAUMA
www.darkness2light.org 1-843-965-5444
www.traumapages.com
www.stopitnow.com 1-888-PREVENT
(1-888-773-8368)
VERMONT STATE REPORTING LAWS
https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/manda.cfm

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT
Ann. Stat. Tit. 33, § 4913
Mandatory reporters include:
- Health-care providers, including physicians, surgeons, osteopaths, chiropractors, physician assistants, resident physicians or interns, hospital administrators, nurses, medical examiners, emergency medical personnel, dentists, psychologists, pharmacists
- Child care workers
- School superintendents, headmasters of approved or recognized independent schools, school teachers, student teachers, school librarians, school principals, or school guidance counselors
- Other individuals who are employed by a school district or an approved or recognized independent school or are contracted and paid by a school district or an approved or recognized independent school to provide student services
- Mental health professionals, social workers, or probation officers
- Employees, contractors, and grantees of the Agency of Human Services who have contact with clients
- Police officers and probation officers
- Camp owners, camp administrators, or camp counselors
- Members of the clergy

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT
Ann. Stat. Tit. 33, § 4913
An employer or supervisor shall not discharge; demote; transfer; reduce pay, benefits, or work privileges; prepare a negative work performance evaluation; or take any other action detrimental to any employee because that employee filed a good-faith report in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter. Any person making a report under this subchapter shall have a civil cause of action for appropriate compensatory and punitive damages against any person who causes detrimental changes in the employment status of the reporting party by reason of his or her making a report.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT
Ann. Stat. Tit. 33, § 4913
A report is required when a mandated reporter reasonably suspects abuse or neglect of a child.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS
Ann. Stat. Tit. 33, § 4913
A person may not refuse to make a report required by this section on the grounds that making the report would violate a privilege or disclose a confidential communication, except that a member of the clergy is not required to report if the knowledge comes from a communication that is required to be kept confidential by religious doctrine.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER’S NAME IN REPORT
Ann. Stat. Tit. 33, § 4914
Reports shall contain the name and address or other contact information of the reporter.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER
Identity Ann. Stat. Tit. 33, § 4913
The name of and any identifying information about either the person making the report or any person mentioned in the report shall be confidential unless:
- The person making the report specifically allows disclosure.
- A Human Services Board proceeding or judicial proceeding results from the report.
- A court, after a hearing, finds probable cause to believe that the report was not made in good faith and orders the department to make the name of the reporter available.
- A review has been requested pursuant to § 4916a of this title, and the department has determined that identifying information can be provided without compromising the safety of the reporter or the persons mentioned in the report.