

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## WEST VIRGINIA

### CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families at **304-558-0628** 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

West Virginia Child Violence Abuse Hotline (24 hour)	1-800-352-6513
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

WV State Bar 304-553-7220

#### Victim Advocacy

YWCA Resolve Family Abuse Program 304-340-3549  
Harrison County CASA 304-623-5749

### RESOURCES FOR HEALING

#### Treatment Providers

WV Department of Mental Health 304-356-4811  
Family Connection Counseling 304-340-3676

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

Women's Aid in Crisis 304-636-5564

### 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 WEST VIRGINIA.

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:

#### West Virginia Child Advocacy Network

1701 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Box #12  
Charleston, WV 25387  
304-414-4455

#### Safe Haven CAC

653 Winchester Ave  
Martinsburg, WV 25401  
304-596-2022

# MANDATED REPORTING

## WEST VIRGINIA

### WEST VIRGINIA 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 § 49-6A-2*

The following professionals are required to report:

- Medical, dental, or mental health professionals
- Christian Science practitioners or religious healers
- Teachers or other school personnel
- Social service, child care, or foster care workers
- Emergency medical services personnel
- Peace officers, law enforcement officials, or humane officers
- Members of the clergy
- Circuit court judges, family court judges, employees of the Division of Juvenile Services, or magistrates
- Youth camp administrators, counselors, employees, coaches, or volunteers of entities that provide organized activities for children
- Commercial film or photographic print processors

### REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Ann. Code § 49-6A-2*

Nothing in this article is intended to prevent individuals from reporting suspected abuse or neglect on their own behalf. In addition to those persons and officials specifically required to report situations involving suspected abuse or neglect of children, any other person may make a report if the person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected in a home or institution or observes the child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect.

### INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Ann. Code § 49-6A-2*

Any person required to report who is a member of the staff or volunteer of a public or private institution, school, entity that provides organized activities for children, facility, or agency also shall immediately notify the person in charge of the institution, school, entity that provides organized activities for children, facility, or agency, or a designated agent thereof, who may supplement the report or cause an additional report to be made.

### STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Ann. Code § 49-2-803*

Any mandatory reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is neglected or abused or observes the child being subjected to conditions that are likely to result in abuse or neglect shall report the circumstances or cause a report to be made to the Department of Health and Human Resources. In any case where the reporter believes that the child suffered serious physical or sexual abuse or sexual assault, the reporter shall also immediately report, or cause a report to be made, to the State Police and any law-enforcement agency having jurisdiction to investigate the complaint.

### PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

*Ann. Code § 49-6A-7*

The privileged quality of communications between husband and wife and between any professional person and his or her patient or client, except that between attorney and client, cannot be invoked in situations involving suspected or known child abuse or neglect.

### INCLUSION OF REPORTER'S NAME IN REPORT

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

### HOW TO REPORT IN WEST VIRGINIA

Reports can be made to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (1-800-352-6513) 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

You may also report alleged sexual abuse or sexual assault, or serious physical abuse to your local law enforcement agency by calling 911.