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CONNECTICUT

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

# CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

# Contact the Connecticut Dept. of Children & Family Service at 800-842-2288 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

CT Careline (24 hour) 1-800-842-2288

The Center Crisis Hotline (24 hour) 203-329-2929

Rape Crisis Hotline 203-333-2233

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

CT State Bar 860-223-4400

 **Victim Advocacy**

The Center for Women & Families 1-844-237-2331

Community Child Guidance Clinic 860-643-2101

# The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis 203-348-9346

# Counseling & Education

# RESOURCES FOR HEALING

**Treatment Providers**

CT Department of Mental Health 888-621-3551

Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis 203-624-2600

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

Community Child Guidance Clinic 860-643-2101

YWCA of New Britain 860-225-4681

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 CONNECTICUT.

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:

**The Children’s Advocacy Center**

1650 E. Old Badillo St #C3

Covina, CA 91724

626-331-6700

**California Network of Children Advocacy Centers** <https://www.cacc-online.org/find-a-center>

510-895-0702

MANDATED REPORTING

CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT STATE REPORTING LAWS

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state/>

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

• Physicians, surgeons, residents, interns, nurses, medical examiners, dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, physician assistants, pharmacists, or physical therapists

• Psychologists or mental health professionals

• Social workers

• School employees as defined by § 53a-65

• Police officers, juvenile or adult probation officers or parole officers

• Member of the clergy

• Alcohol and drug counselors, marital and family therapists, professional counselors, sexual assault counselors, or domestic violence counselors

• Licensed foster parents

• Emergency medical service providers

• Any person paid to care for a chil din public or private facility, child daycare center, group daycare home, or dfamily daycare home that is licensed by the State

• Employees of the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Public Health, and the Office of Early Childhood who are responsible for the licensing of child daycare centers, group daycare homes, family dayrcare homes, or youth camps

• The Child Advocate and any employee of the Office of Child Advocate

• Family relations counselor trainees or family services supervisors employed by the Judicial Department

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Gen. Stat. § 17a-103*

Any mandated reporter acting outside his or her professional capacity, or any other person having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, may report.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Gen. Stat. §§ 17a-101b(d); 17a-101e(a)*

Whenever a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child has been abused or neglected by a member of the staff of a public or private institution or facility that provides care for such child or a public or private school, the mandated reporter shall report as required by law. The Commissioner of Children and Families or the commissioner's designee shall notify the principal, headmaster, executive director, or other person in charge of the institution, facility, or school, or that person's designee, unless that person is the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect of the child. In the case of a public school, the commissioner also shall notify the person's employing superintendent. The person in charge or the person's designee then shall immediately notify the child's parent or other person responsible for the child's care that a report has been made. (Continued on the following page)

HOW TO REPORT IN CONNECTICUT

If you need to report child maltreatment, please call the Crimes Against Children Hotline at 1-800-482-5964.

For info on Darkness to Light’s mandated reporter training visit: <https://www.d2l.org/education/additional-training/child-abuse-neglect/>

No employer shall:

• Discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against any employee who in good faith makes a report of child abuse or neglect, testifies, or is about to testify in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect

• Hinder, prevent, or attempt to hinder or prevent any employee from making a report as required or testifying in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Gen. Stat. § 17a-101a*

A report is required when, in the ordinary course of his or her employment or profession, a reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under age 18:

• Has been abused or neglected

• Has had a nonaccidental physical injury or an injury that is at variance with the history given of the injury

• Is placed at imminent risk of serious harm

Any school employee shall report when, in the ordinary course of his or her employment or profession, he or she has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person who is being educated by the technical high school system or a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education program, is a victim of abuse and the perpetrator is a school employee.

A mandated reporter's suspicion or belief may be based on factors, including, but not limited to, observations, allegations, facts, or statements by a child, victim, or a third party. Such suspicion or belief does not require certainty or probable cause.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER’S NAME IN REPORT
*Gen. Stat. §§ 17a-101d; 17a-103*

The reporter is not specifically required by statute to include his or her name in the report. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall use his or her best efforts to obtain the name and address of the reporter.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY
*Gen. Stat. § 17a-28(f)*

The name of an individual reporting suspected child abuse or neglect or cooperating with an investigation of child abuse or neglect, shall be kept confidential upon request or upon determination by the department that disclosure of such information may be detrimental to the safety or interests of the individual.

When there is reasonable cause to believe that the reporter knowingly made a false report, however, the name of any such individual shall be disclosed to:

• An employee of the department for reasons reasonably related to the business of the department

• A law enforcement officer for purposes of investigating:

• Abuse or neglect of a child or youth

• An allegation that the individual falsely reported the suspected abuse or neglect of a child or youth

• A State's attorney for purposes of investigating or prosecuting:

• Abuse or neglect of a child or youth

• An allegation that the individual falsely reported the suspected abuse or neglect of a child or youth

• An assistant attorney general or other legal counsel representing the department

• A judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties in a court proceeding pursuant to § 17a-112 or 46b-129, or a criminal prosecution involving child abuse or neglect

• A State childcare licensing agency

• The executive director of any institution, school, or facility or superintendent of schools pursuant to § 17a-101i

MANDATED REPORTING contd.