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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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

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:

**Children’s Advocacy Center of Hernando County**

880 Kennedy Blvd.

Brooksville, FL 34601

352-754-8809

**Florida Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers**

2940 East Park Ave, Suite A

Tallahassee, FL 32301

850-671-4791

# CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

# Contact the Florida Dept. of Children & Family Service at 800-96-ABUSE (22873) 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

Florida Abuse Hotline(24 hour) 1-800-962-2873

Sexual Assault Hotline(24 hour) 407-497-6701

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

FL State Bar 850-561-5600

### Victim Advocacy

Office of the State Attorney Victim Advocate Program 888-502-5668

# RESOURCES FOR HEALING

**Treatment Providers**

Manatee Glens Children’s Crisis Center 941-782-4617

FL Department of Mental Health 850-487-1111

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

Bridgeway Center, Inc. 850-833-7500

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

[www.D2L.org](http://www.D2L.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)

FLORIDA

MANDATED REPORTING

FLORIDA

FLORIDA STATE REPORTING LAWS

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

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

The following persons are required to report:

• Physicians, osteopaths, medical examiners, chiropractors, nurses, or hospital personnel

• Other health or mental health professionals

• Practitioners who rely solely on spiritual means for healing

• Teachers or other school officials or personnel

• Social workers, daycare center workers, or other professional childcare, foster care, residential, or institutional workers

• Law enforcement officers or judges

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Ann. Stat. § 39.201*

Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child’s welfare or that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care, shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department. Any person who knows or who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused by an adult other than a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child’s welfare shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department. Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is the victim of childhood sexual abuse or the victim of a known or suspected juvenile sexual offender shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Ann. Stat. § 39.201*

Nothing in this chapter or in the contracting with community-based care providers for foster care and related services as specified in § 409.1671 shall be construed to remove or reduce the duty and responsibility of any person, including any employee of the community-based care provider, to report a suspected or actual case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect or the sexual abuse of a child to the central abuse hotline.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Ann. Stat. § 39.201*

A report is required when:

• A person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected.

• A person knows that a child needs supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care.

HOW TO REPORT IN FLORIDA

To make a report you can report online at https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/,call **1-800-962-2873**, use 711 for Florida Relay Service, or fax your report to **1-800-914-0004.**

If you suspect or know of a child in immediate danger, call 911.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

*Ann. Stat. § 39.204*

Only clergy-penitent and attorney-client privileges are permitted.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER’S NAME IN REPORT

*Ann. Stat. § 39.201*  
Professionals who are mandated reporters are required to provide their names to hotline staff

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY   
*Ann. Stat. §§ 39.201; 39.202*

The names of reporters shall be entered into the record of the report but shall be held confidential. The name of the reporter may not be released to any person other than employees of the Department of Children and Family Services responsible for child protective services, the central abuse hotline, law enforcement, the child protection team, or the appropriate State attorney, without the written consent of the person reporting. This does not prohibit the serving of a subpoena to a person reporting child abuse, abandonment, or neglect when deemed necessary by the court, the State attorney, or the department, provided the fact that such person made the

report is not disclosed.

MANDATED REPORTING contd.