­

GEORGIA

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

# CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

**Georgia Child Protective Services Information Center**

**To make a report of abuse: 1-855-GA-CHILD (1-855-422-4453)**

**Prevent Child Abuse Georgia Helpline: 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)** supports families and parents and connects them with appropriate resources in their community. It offers information about child abuse, family violence, counseling and support groups. Bilingual (Spanish/English) call center is open Mon-Fri from 8am-7pm.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia (770) 319-6888

P. O. Box 1192

Decatur, GA 30031-1192

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

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (404) 657-2222

104 Marietta Street, Suite 440

Atlanta, GA 30303

Victim Services:

[www.cjcc.georgia.gov](http://www.cjcc.georgia.gov)

Georgia Bureau of Investigations (404) 270-8465

Georgia’s Sex Offender Registry

[www.gbi.georgia.gov/georgia-sex-offender-registry](http://www.gbi.georgia.gov/georgia-sex-offender-registry)

Georgia Department of Human Resources (404) 651-9361

Division of Family and Children Services (404) 651-9361 (Child Protective Services)

2 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 18-486 (404) 657-3780 (Domestic Violence)

Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 657-3780 (Foster Care Placement)

<http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site>

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia (404) 413-1419

Center for Healthy Development

Georgia State University
[www.preventchildabusegeorgia.org](http://www.preventchildabusegeorgia.org)

Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy (404) 785-9930

Children at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta - Hughes Spalding

35 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr. SE

Atlanta, GA 30303

Northside Professional Center (404 )785-3820

975 Johnson Ferry Rd. NE, Suite 350

Atlanta, GA 30342

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

United Way 211 (404)527-7200

100 Edgewood Ave., NE

Atlanta, GA 30303

[http://www.unitedwayatl.org/e0- 211.asp](http://www.unitedwayatl.org/e0-%20211.asp)

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 GEORGIA.

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 Centers of Georgia

P. O. Box 1192

Decatur, GA 30031-1192

Tel: (770)319-6888

www.cacga.org

MANDATED REPORTING

GEORGIA

HOW TO REPORT IN GEORGIA

Georgia law requires anyone who works or volunteers at a child-serving agency to report suspected child abuse or neglect within 24 hours (O.C.G.A. 19-7-5). Frequently hospitals, schools and other facilities have an internal child abuse report protocol. You should be aware of this protocol and follow it.

For instance, there may be a designated reporter like the childcare center director who is charged with making reports to DFCS. Each organization will handle this in their own way to assure that accurate reports are made in a timely fashion. If a mandated reporter informs the agency’s designated reporter of suspected abuse, the mandated reporter has fulfilled their obligation under the law.

To make a report, call the **Georgia Child Protective Services Information Center: 1-855-GA-CHILD (1-855-422-4453)**. If you feel the child is in immediate danger, call 911.

You can also make a report of suspected abuse online. The Georgia Mandated Reporter Form is to be used by mandated reporters who wish to report electronically, go to:

<http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/webform/georgia-child-protective-services-mandated-reporter-form>

GEORGIA STATE REPORTING LAWS

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/lawspolicies/state/>

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

• Physicians, physician assistants, residents, interns, hospital and medical personnel, podiatrists, dentists, or nurses

• Teachers, school administrators, school counselors, visiting teachers, school social workers, or school psychologists

• Psychologists, counselors, social workers, or marriage and family therapists

• Child welfare agency personnel (as that agency is defined by § 49-5-12) or child-counseling personnel

• Child service organization personnel (includes any organization - whether public, private, for-profit, not-for-profit, or voluntary - that provides care, treatment, education, training, supervision, coaching, recreation programs, or shelter to children)

• Law enforcement personnel

• Reproductive health-care facility or pregnancy resource center personnel and volunteers

• Persons who process or produce visual or printed matter

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Ann. Code § 19-7-5*

Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused may report

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Ann. Code § 19-7-5*

If a person is required to report child abuse because that person attends to a child as part of the person's duties as an employee of or volunteer at a hospital, school, social agency, or similar facility, that person shall notify the person in charge of the facility, or the designated delegate thereof, and the person so notified shall report or cause a report to be made in accordance with this section. An employee or volunteer who makes a report to the person designated shall be deemed to have fully complied with this subsection. Under no circumstances shall any person in charge of such hospital, school, agency, or facility, or the designated delegate thereof to whom such notification has been made exercise any control, restraint, modification, or make other change to the information provided by the reporter, although each of the aforementioned persons may be consulted prior to the making of a report and may provide any additional, relevant, and necessary information when making the report.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Ann. Code §§ 19-7-5; 16-12-100*

A report is required when:

* A reporter has reasonable cause to believe that child abuse has occurred.
* A person who processes or produces visual or printed matter has reasonable cause to believe that the visual or printed matter submitted for processing or producing depicts a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

*Ann. Code § 19-7-5(g)*

A mandated reporter must report regardless of whether the reasonable cause to believe that abuse has occurred or is occurring is based in whole or in part upon any communication to that person that is otherwise made privileged or confidential by law. However, a member of the clergy shall not be required to report child abuse reported solely within the context of confession or other similar communication required to be kept confidential under church doctrine or practice. When a clergy member receives information about child abuse from any other source, the clergy member shall comply with the reporting requirements of this section, even though the clergy member may have also received a report of child abuse from the confession of the perpetrator.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY
*Ann. Code § 49-5-41*

Any release of records shall protect the identity of any person reporting child abuse.

MANDATED REPORTING contd.