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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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

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:

**Rapides Children’s Advocacy Center**

1506 Albert Street

Alexandria, LA 71301

318-448-4006

**Baton Rouge Children’s Advocacy Center**

626 East Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

225-343-1984

**Hope House Children’s Advocacy Center**

223 W 28th Ave

Covington, LA 70434

985-892-3885

# CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

# Contact the Louisiana Dept. of Children Protective Services at 1-855-452-5437 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 Abuse or Neglect (24 hour) 1-855-4LA-KIDS

(1-855-452-5437)

Sexual Assault Crisis Line (24 hour) 318-445-2022

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

LA State Bar 504-566-1600

### Victim Advocacy

Child Advocacy Services (CAS) 985-902-9583

The Haven 1-800-777-8868

Hearts of Hope 337-269-1557

# RESOURCES FOR HEALING

**Treatment Providers**

LA Department of Mental Health 225-342-9500

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

Family Counseling Agency 318-448-0284

Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault 888-995-7273

Metropolitan Center for Women & Children 504-837-5400

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)

LOUISIANA

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MANDATED REPORTING

LOUISIANA STATE REPORTING LAWS

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

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

*Children’s Code Art. 603(15)*

Mandatory reporters include any of the following individuals:

• Health practitioners, including physicians, surgeons, physical therapists, dentists, residents, interns, hospital staff, podiatrists, chiropractors, nurses, nursing aides, dental hygienists, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, optometrists, medical examiners, or coroners

• Mental health/social service practitioners, including psychiatrists, psychologists, marriage or family counselors, social workers, members of the clergy, or aides

• Members of the clergy, including priests, rabbis, duly ordained clerical deacons or ministers, Christian Science practitioners, or other similarly situated functionaries of a religious organization

• Teaching or child care providers, including public or private teachers, teacher's aides, instructional aides, school principals, school staff members, bus drivers, coaches, professors, technical or vocational instructors, technical or vocational school staff members, college or university administrators, college or university staff members, social workers, probation officers, foster home parents, group home or other child care institutional staff members, personnel of residential home facilities, daycare providers, or any individual who provides such services to a child in a voluntary or professional capacity

• Police officers or law enforcement officials

• Commercial film and photographic print processors

• Mediators

• Parenting coordinators

• Court-appointed special advocates

• Organizational or youth activity providers, including administrators, employees, or volunteers of any day camp, summer camp, youth center, or youth recreation programs or any other organization that provides organized activities for children

• School coaches, including, but not limited to, public technical or vocational school, community college, college, or university coaches and coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Children’s Code Art. 609*

Any other person who has cause to believe that a child’s health is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect may report.

HOW TO REPORT IN LOUISIANA

Call 1-855-4LA-KIDS

(1-855-452-5437).

**To get the form for mandated reporters go to:** http://www.dss.state.la.us/assets/docs/searchable/OCS/CPI-2.pdf

**For mandated reporter training:** www.dcfs.la.gov/MandatedReporterTraining.

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

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Children’s Code Art. 609; 610*

A report is required when:

• A reporter has cause to believe that a child’s physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect.

• A commercial film or photographic print processor has knowledge of or observes any film, photograph, videotape, negative, or slide depicting a child, whom he or she knows or should know is under age 17, that constitutes child pornography.

• A physician has cause to believe that a newborn was exposed in utero to an unlawfully used controlled dangerous substance, as determined by a toxicology test upon the newborn, without the consent of the newborn’s parents or guardian. Positive test results shall not be admissible in a criminal prosecution.

• A physician observes symptoms of withdrawal in a newborn or other observable and harmful effects in his or her physical appearance or functioning that the physician has cause to believe are due to the chronic or severe use of alcohol by the mother during pregnancy.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

*Children’s Code Art. 603(17); 609*

A clergy member is not required to report a confidential communication from a person to a member of the clergy who, in the course of the discipline or practice of that church, denomination, or organization, is authorized or accustomed to hearing confidential communications and, under the discipline or tenets of the church, denomination, or organization, has a duty to keep such communications confidential.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, when representing a child in a case arising out of this code, a mental health or social service practitioner shall not be considered a mandatory reporter under the following limited circumstances:

• When the practitioner is engaged by an attorney to assist in the rendition of professional legal services to that child

• When the information that would serve as the basis for reporting arises in furtherance of facilitating the rendition of those professional legal services to that child

• When the information that would serve as the basis for reporting is documented by the mental health/social service practitioner

The documentation shall be retained by the mental health/social service practitioner until 1 year after the child has reached the age of majority.

Notwithstanding any claim of privileged communication, any mandatory reporter who has cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect, or that abuse or neglect was a contributing factor in a child's death, shall report.

MANDATED REPORTING contd.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER’S NAME IN REPORT  
*Children’s Code Art. 610*

The report must include the name and address of the reporter.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY

*Rev. Stat. § 46:56(F)(8)(b*)

The identity of the reporter shall not be released unless a court finds that the reporter knowingly made a false report.

MANDATED REPORTING contd.