­

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

# CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

# Contact the Mississippi Dept. of Children Protective Services at 800-222-8000 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 Neglect & Abuse Hotline (24 hour) 1-800-222-8000

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

MS State Bar 601-948-4471

Rankin County Board of Supervisors 601-825-1475

### Victim Advocacy

Our House, Inc. 662-332-5683

The Child Abuse Prevention Center 228-868-8686

# RESOURCES FOR HEALING

**Treatment Providers**

MS Department of Mental Health 1-877-210-8513

# Gulf Coast Women’s Center for Nonviolence 228-436-3809

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

Gulf Coast Women’s Center for Nonviolence 228-436-3809

Wesley House Community Center 601-485-4736

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)

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

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 Mississippi**

601-940-6183

Visit http://mississippi.nationalchildrensalliance.org/index.php?s=2724 to find the CAC near you

**The South Mississippi Child Advocacy Center**

2315 17th St

Gulfport, MS 39501

228-868-8686

MISSISSIPPI

MANDATED REPORTING

MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI STATE REPORTING LAWS

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

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

*Ann. Code § 43-21-353*

The following professionals are required to report:

• Physicians, dentists, interns, residents, or nurses

• Public or private school employees or childcare givers

• Psychologists, social workers, family protection workers, or family protection specialists

• Attorneys, ministers, or law enforcement officers

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Ann. Code § 43-21-353*

All other persons who have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused or neglected must report.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Ann. Code § 43-21-353*

A report is required when a person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused or neglected.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER’S NAME IN REPORT  
*Ann. Code § 43-21-353*

The department’s report shall include the name and address of all witnesses, including the reporter if he or she is a material witness to the abuse.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY

*Ann. Code § 43-21-353*

The identity of the reporting party shall not be disclosed to anyone other than law enforcement officers or prosecutors without an order from the appropriate youth court. The identity of the reporter shall not be disclosed to an individual under investigation.

HOW TO REPORT IN MISSISSIPPI

If the report is not an emergency, use the online referral system: <https://www.msabusehotline.mdhs.ms.gov/>

To call Mississippi Centralized Intake instead of using the online referral system: Centralized Intake at 1-800-222-8000 (Nationwide) or (601) 432-4570 if:

* The situation you are reporting is an emergency;
* You prefer to remain anonymous;
* You have insufficient data to complete the required fields using the online reporting system; or
* The suspected abuse/neglect you are reporting occurred outside the state of Mississippi, and you do not know how to contact the state where it occurred.