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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

# CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

# Contact the Pennsylvania Dept. of Children Protective Services at 1-800-947-4941 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

The Childline & Abuse Registry Intake Unit 1-800-932-0313

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

PA State Bar 1-800-932-0311

### Victim Advocacy

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape 1-888-772-7227

Crime Victims Council 610-437-6610

# RESOURCES FOR HEALING

**Treatment Providers**

PA. Department of Mental Health 1-800-692-7462

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

Family Services Inc 814-944-3583

Survivors, Inc. 717-334-9777

 1800-787-8106 (24 hour)

Victim Outreach Intervention Center 724-776-5910

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 PENNSYLVANIA.

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:

**Pennsylvania Chapter of Children’s Advocacy Centers**

626 James St.

Erie, PA 165009

814-431-8151

Visit <http://www.penncac.org> to find a CAC near you.

PENNSYLVANIA

MANDATED REPORTING

PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORTING LAWS

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/manda.cfm>

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

*Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6311*

The following adults are required to report:

* Persons licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field
* Medical examiners, coroners, or funeral directors
* Employees of licensed health-care facilities who are engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of individuals
* School employees
* Employees of a child care service or public library
* A clergyman, priest, rabbi, minister, Christian Science practitioner, religious healer, or spiritual leader of any regularly established church or other religious organization
* Any person, paid or unpaid, who, on the basis of the person's role in a program, activity, or service, is a person responsible for the child's welfare or has direct contact with children
* Employees of a social services agency
* A peace officer or law enforcement official
* An emergency medical services provider
* An individual supervised or managed by a person listed above who has direct contact with children
* An independent contractor
* An attorney affiliated with an agency, institution, or other entity, including a school or established religious organization that is responsible for the care, supervision, guidance, or control of children
* A foster parent
* An adult family member who is a person responsible for the child's welfare and provides services to a child in a family living home, community home for individuals with an intellectual disability, or licensed host home for children

A 'school employee' is an individual who is employed by a school or who provides an activity or service sponsored by a school. The term does not apply to administrative personnel unless that person has direct contact with children. A school is a facility providing elementary, secondary, or postsecondary educational services, including public and nonpublic

HOW TO REPORT IN PENNSYLVANIA

ChildLine is the 24-hour toll free telephone reporting system operated by the Department of Human Services to receive reports of suspected child abuse: 1-800-932-0313 or on line at http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis

MANDATED REPORTING contd.

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6312*

Any person may make an oral or written report of suspected child abuse, which may be submitted electronically, if that person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6311*

Whenever a person is required to report in the capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility, or agency, that person shall report immediately in accordance with § 6313 and shall immediately thereafter notify the person in charge of the institution, school, facility, or agency, or the designated agent of the person in charge. Upon notification, the person in charge or the designated agent, if any, shall facilitate the cooperation of the institution, school, facility, or agency with the investigation of the report. Any intimidation, retaliation, or obstruction in the investigation of the report is subject to the provisions of title 18, § 4958 (relating to intimidation, retaliation, or obstruction in child abuse cases). This chapter does not require more than one report from any such institution, school, facility, or agency.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6311*

A mandated reporter shall make a report of suspected child abuse if he or she has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances:

* The mandated reporter comes into contact with the child in the course of employment, occupation, and practice of a profession or through a regularly scheduled program, activity, or service.
* The mandated reporter is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance, or training of the child, or is affiliated with an agency, institution, organization, school, regularly established church or religious organization, or other entity that is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance, or training of the child.
* A person makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable child is the victim of child abuse.
* An individual age 14 or older makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that the individual has committed child abuse.

Nothing in this section shall require a child to come before the mandated reporter in order for the mandated reporter to make a report of suspected child abuse. Nothing in this section shall require the mandated reporter to identify the person responsible for the child abuse to make a report of suspected child abuse.

MANDATED REPORTING contd.

INCLUSION OF REPORTER’S NAME IN REPORT

*Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6313*

A written report of suspected child abuse, which may be submitted electronically, shall include the name, telephone number, and email address of the person making the report.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY

*Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6340*

Upon a written request, a subject of a report may receive a copy of all information, except for the identity of the person who made the report.

Except for reports released to law enforcement officials and the district attorney's office, and in response to a law enforcement official investigating allegations of false reports under title 18, § 4906.1 (relating to false reports of child abuse), the release of data that would identify the person who made a report of suspected child abuse or who cooperated in a subsequent investigation is prohibited. Law enforcement officials shall treat all reporting sources as confidential informants.