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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

# CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

# Contact the Tennessee Dept. of Children Protective Services at 877-237-0004 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

Report Child Abuse & Neglect 1-877-237-0004

1-877-54ABUSE

(1-877-542-2873)

The Link Crisis Hotline 1-800-472-9411

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

TN State Bar 615-383-7421

### Victim Advocacy

Childhelp’s Children’s Center of East Tennessee 865-637-1753

# RESOURCES FOR HEALING

**Treatment Providers**

Centerstone of Tennessee 888-291-4357

TN Dept of Mental Health 615-532-6500

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

Community Health of East Tennessee 423-562-1156

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 TENNESSEE.

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:

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

4711 Trousdale Dr., Ste.# 124

Nashville, TN 37220

615-333-5832

**15th Judicial District Child Advocacy Center**

107 N. Greenwood St.

Lebanon, TN 37087

615-449-7975

TENNESSEE

MANDATED REPORTING

TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE STATE REPORTING LAWS

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

PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

*Ann. Code §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605*

Persons required to report include:

• Physicians, osteopaths, medical examiners, chiropractors, nurses, hospital personnel, or other health or mental health professionals

• Teachers, other school officials or personnel, daycare center workers

• Other professional child care, foster care, residential, or institutional workers

• Social workers

• Practitioners who rely solely on spiritual means for healing

• Judges of any court of the state and law enforcement officers

• Neighbors, relatives, or friends

• Other persons

REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Ann. Code §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605*

Any person who has knowledge that a child has been harmed by abuse or neglect must report.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Ann. Code § 37-1-403*

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any hospital, clinic, school, or other organization responsible for the care of children from developing a specific procedure for internally tracking, reporting, or otherwise monitoring a report made by a member of the organization’s staff, including requiring a member of the organization’s staff who makes a report to provide a copy of or notice concerning the report to the organization, so long as the procedure does not inhibit, interfere with, or otherwise affect the duty of a person to make a report as required by law. Nothing in this section shall prevent staff of a hospital or clinic from gathering sufficient information, as determined by the hospital or clinic, in order to make an appropriate medical diagnosis or to provide and document care that is medically indicated and is needed to determine whether to report an incident as defined in this part. Those activities shall not interfere with nor serve as a substitute for any investigation by law enforcement officials or the department. However, if any hospital, clinic, school, or other organization responsible for the care of children develops a procedure for internally tracking, reporting, or otherwise monitoring a report, the identity of the person who made a report of harm shall be kept confidential.

HOW TO REPORT IN TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Child Abuse Hotline is a call center accepting all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect for the state of Tennessee.

Phone: 1-877-237-0004

MANDATED REPORTING contd.

STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Ann. Code §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605*

A report is required when:

• A person has knowledge that a child has been harmed by abuse or neglect.

• A person is called upon to render aid to any child who is suffering from an injury that reasonably appears to have been caused by abuse.

• A person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused.

shall immediately upon knowledge of such information notify the Department of Children’s Services or law enforcement official of the abuse or alleged abuse.

• A physician diagnoses or treats any sexually transmitted disease in a child age 13 or younger or diagnoses pregnancy in an un-emancipated minor. Any school official, personnel, employee, or member of the board of education who is aware of a report or investigation of employee misconduct on the part of any employee of the school system that in any way involves known or alleged child abuse, including, but not limited to, child physical or sexual abuse or neglect, shall immediately upon knowledge of such information notify the Department of Children’s Services or law enforcement official of the abuse or alleged abuse.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

*Ann. Code § 37-1-411*

The following privileges may not be claimed:

• Husband-wife

• Psychiatrist-patient or psychologist-patient

INCLUSION OF REPORTER’S NAME IN REPORT

The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report.

DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY

*Ann. Code § 37-1-409*

Except as may be ordered by the juvenile court, the name of any person reporting child abuse or neglect shall not be released to any person, other than employees of the department or other child protection team members responsible for child protective services, the abuse registry, or the appropriate district attorney general upon subpoena of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, without the written consent of the person reporting. The reporter’s identity shall be irrelevant to any civil proceeding and shall, therefore, not be subject to disclosure by order of any court. This shall not prohibit the issuance of a subpoena to a person reporting child abuse when deemed necessary by the district attorney general or the department to protect a child who is the subject of a report, provided that the fact that the person made the report is not disclosed.