

Other Common Questions

Q Do I have to report suspected child abuse if the incident has already been reported?

A Yes, you may have additional useful information that can assist the investigation.

Q What if I'm not sure if abuse has occurred?

A If you are not sure if it is abuse or neglect, report it anyway. It is better to err on the side of caution.

Q What if I become aware of an adult who was abused as a child?

A If the perpetrator is still alive and the abuse has never been reported, you are mandated to report the abuse no matter how long ago it occurred.

Q What if I hear about suspected abuse through a third party?

A You should report with as much information as you have.

Q What if my report will interfere with my professional relationship with a family?

A If you are a mandated reporter, you must report by law. It may be beneficial to share your obligation as a mandated reporter with the population you serve.

Q What if the suspected abuse is perpetrated by a child upon another child?

A Mandated reporters should report suspected abuse regardless of the ages of the alleged victim or perpetrator. There is often an adult involved somewhere in the chain of events, and it is the investigator's job to unravel the facts.

Where can I find more information on child abuse?

The following organizations can provide you with more information:

Childhelp USA

National Child Abuse Hotline
(800) 422-4453
www.childhelpusa.org

From Darkness to Light

247 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29401
843-965-5444
www.darkness2light.org

Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence

936 North 34th Street, Ste 200
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 634-1903
www.cpsdv.org



Larimer County Child Advocacy Center

5529 S. Timberline Road • Fort Collins, CO 80528
(970) 407-9739 • (970) 407-9743
www.larimercac.org



The printing of this brochure was made possible by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE...

Is This In Your Job Description?

According to the Colorado Children's Code, 19-3-304, the following professions must report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Does this list include you?

- Physician, surgeon or physician in training
- RN, LPN, child health associate
- Hospital personnel engaged in the admission, care or treatment of patients
- Physical therapist, chiropractor, chiropractist or podiatrist
- Medical examiner or coroner
- Christian Science practitioner
- Dentist, dental hygienist, optometrist
- Public or private school official or employee
- Social worker or worker in a family child care home, foster care home, or child care center
- Mental health professional, psychologist, licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, unlicensed psychotherapists
- Victim's advocate
- Firefighter
- Veterinarian
- Peace officer
- Pharmacist
- Commercial film and photographic print processor
- Clergy member

(This list is periodically updated by the Colorado Legislature)

What is child abuse and neglect?

Physical Abuse - A suspicious physical injury that might include bruising, bleeding, burns and/or broken bones.

Emotional Abuse - An adult's words or actions that lead to a substantial impairment of a child's intellectual or psychological functioning/development.

Sexual Abuse - Any case in which a child is subjected to sexual assault or molestation, sexual exploitation, or prostitution. Child sexual abuse occurs when a child is used for the sexual gratification of another.

Neglect - Any case in which a child's caretakers fail to provide adequate supervision, food, clothing, shelter and/or medical care.



How do I report?

If you suspect abuse, call Larimer County Department of Human Services at (970) 498-6990 to discuss your suspicions or to make a formal report regarding your concerns about the welfare of a child or teenager. To report abuse/neglect of a child who resides outside of Larimer County, please contact that specific county or state agency where the child resides.



State that you are a mandated reporter. You will be asked the following:

- Name, address, age, ethnicity and gender of child
- Name and address of person responsible for the suspected abuse or neglect
- Nature and extent of the child's injuries
- Family composition of child and, if possible, family composition of alleged perpetrator
- Source of the report, with name, address, and occupation of person making the report
- Any action taken by the person reporting the abuse
- Any other information believed to be useful, e.g. any potential witnesses

Document the name of the worker, the date/time of your call and the information given.

Once the report has been made, it is not your responsibility to do any further investigation.

What happens after I report?

When you report to the Department of Human Services, your name will not be given to those about whom the report is made. Your confidentiality is protected by law. A screener will take your information and submit it to a supervisor who will do a risk assessment. Your report will be deemed as immediate, 24-hour, 72-hour, 4 day response or "file for future reference."

If your report is assigned to a caseworker, he/she must respond in the amount of time required by the assessment. Once an investigation is in process, information generated by the case becomes confidential by law. As the reporting party, you will not be notified as to the outcome of the investigation. However, you may or may not be contacted by a caseworker for further information.



What is my liability?

- Any person participating in good faith in the making of a report shall be immune from any civil and/or criminal liability.
- Any mandated reporter who fails to report suspected child abuse commits a Class 3 Misdemeanor and can be prosecuted.
- Any person who knowingly makes a malicious report may be criminally liable.