



CHILD PROTECTION CENTER

Signs of Child Abuse and How to Report

The signs of child abuse are often seen in behavioral changes, such as:

Aggressiveness, passiveness, withdrawal, sexually inappropriate behaviors or knowledge, use of alcohol or drugs at an early age, and acting abnormally adult or infantile.

Direct physical signs of abuse are not always common, but can include:

Unexplained bruises or welts in various stages of healing, burns, fractures, bleeding, consistent hunger, poor hygiene, fatigue, and difficulty walking or sitting.

Victims of child abuse often show indirect physical signs, such as:

Anxiety, chronic stomach pains, nightmares, and bedwetting.

How to Report Suspected Child Abuse

In Florida, everyone is a mandatory reporter. Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected, is mandated by law to place a report.

**Florida Abuse Hotline:
1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)**

** Available 24/7 **

This toll free number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week with counselors waiting to help you.



If you see something, if you hear something, if you suspect something- **report it**. Don't wait for someone else to speak up- it could mean the life of a child. Many reporters find it helpful to organize their thoughts and information by writing it out before calling the hotline. **If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.**

How to Report Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)

If/when we come across child sexual abuse material (CSAM- also known as child pornography) accidentally online, often our first instinct is to exit out of the video or image and try to forget seeing the upsetting content. The issue with this is that the child in the content is not being helped. We urge you to report it to the platform itself, local abuse hotlines (if location is known), and the CyberTipline. The Tipline also accepts reports of: online enticement of a child for sexual acts; child sex trafficking; misleading domain name; unsolicited obscene material sent to a child.

report.cybertip.org



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A Child Has Directly Disclosed Abuse to You- Now What?

When a child discloses abuse, they are seeking support and safety from someone they trust.

- ✓ Remain calm and listen patiently
- ✓ Reassure them that they're doing the right thing by telling you
- ✓ Ask open ended questions- "Tell me about that/Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?"
- ✓ As quickly as possible, call the Florida Abuse Hotline (1-800-962-2873) to file a report.

While this is an extremely difficult conversation to have, it is important to refrain from:

- ✓ Confronting the offender
- ✓ Disregarding the child
- ✓ Reacting dramatically
- ✓ Overwhelming the child with questions



**Call the Florida Abuse Hotline to make a report.
If the child is in immediate danger, call 911.**