

Child Abuse Prevention (For Parents)

If you suspect your child, your neighbor's child, your child's friend, or any child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, it is your responsibility to report this suspicion to the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services. Below is the information you need to know about reporting and procedures.

Requirements:

- Report all suspicions of abuse and neglect of a child that has not turned age 18.
- Mandated reporters may not use their own discretion in deciding what cases should or should not be reported to the appropriate law enforcement or state agency.

Procedure:

- The mandatory reporter may not delegate the responsibility to report sexual abuse to any other person but shall make the report personally.
- Reports are made to Child Abuse/ Neglect/ Exploitation Hotline 1-800-222-8000 or <http://www.msabusehotline.mdhs.ms.gov/home.aspx>
- Report to 1-800-222-8000 if it is an emergency, if you would like to remain anonymous, or if you do not have enough information required to complete the online reporting system.

Information to know:

- Victim's name, home address or location, school information, age, race, sex
- Description of the situation and marks or bruises that may be present
- Person responsible for victim's care (parent/legal guardian)
- Alleged perpetrator name(s), and any witnesses to the situation
- Any other relevant information that would help expedite the investigation
- If the child is in immediate danger, **call 911 immediately**