

Reporting Abuse Guide

A resource for filing a report in Florida.

Suspect abuse or neglect?



Florida requires any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child under 18 is being abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare must immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline of the Department of Children and Families. There are penalties for failing to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect. It is not your job to know whether abuse has occurred or not, it is your job to report your concerns.

Have some basic information available.

If you are unable to obtain some of the information below, you may still call the Hotline and a counselor will assess the information available to see if it meets statutory criteria for the Department of Children and Families to initiate a protective investigation.

- Reporter name (professionally mandated reporters are required to provide their name. All other reporters may choose to remain anonymous).
- Victim name, possible responsible person or alleged perpetrator name(s).
- Complete addresses for subjects, and/or directions to their location.
- Telephone numbers, including area code.
- Estimated or actual dates of birth.
- Social Security numbers, if available.
- A brief, yet concise, description of the abuse, neglect, abandonment or exploitation, including physical, mental or sexual injuries, if any.
- Names of other residents and their relationship to the victim(s), if available.
- A brief description of the victim's disability or infirmity (required for vulnerable adults).
- The relationship of the alleged perpetrator to the victim.

Florida Abuse Hotline

1-800-96-ABUSE
(1-800-962-2873)

Available 24/7 with counselors waiting to help you.

TDD: 1-800-453-5145

Fax: 1-800-914-0004

Online: <https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/>

Reporter information is confidential.

