



HOW TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

CALL THE DCFS HOTLINE:

1-800-25ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)

Have the following information about the child or children, if possible:

- Name
- Address
- Information about siblings
- Date of birth
- Phone number
- Parent/guardian's name



More information for calling the hotline:

- Identify if you are a mandated reporter.
- Tell the hotline right away if you think it is an emergency.
- Tell the hotline why you think the child or children are abused or neglected. Report the facts about what you have seen and/or heard.
- Give the hotline as much information about the abuse and the person responsible for the abuse as possible.
- You do not need to have proof of the abuse. If you suspect a child is being hurt, call the hotline.
- Sometimes the hotline will not be able to take the report. It is ok to ask the hotline worker for other resources or ideas to help the family.
- You can make a report to the hotline without giving your name.

To learn more about the hotline or making a report visit the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services website at: www.illinois.gov/dcfs

You can also report online using the new DCFS Online Reporting System:

The Online Reporting System is to be used for **non-life threatening and non-emergency incidents** of abuse or neglect of a child. If you believe the abuse or neglect you are reporting requires immediate action, you **MUST** call the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline to make your report. Report online using this website: <https://childabuse.illinois.gov/Reporting/ReportingMain>

If you believe a child is in immediate danger that could result in death or serious harm, call 911.

Call the DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline instead of using the Online Reporting System for situations including but not limited to:

- Current injuries to the child
- Immediate need for medical treatment (including a child who is suicidal)
- Sexual abuse where the involved adult has or will have access to a child within the next 24 hours
- A child is currently afraid to go home
- A child is currently in protective custody of police or medical personnel
- A child death