

Information on Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

Source:

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/About_Child_Protective_Services/reportChildAbuse.asp

Report Abuse or Neglect of children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.

To report an emergency, call 911. To report child abuse or neglect, call 1-800-252-5400.

For situations that do **not** require a response within 24 hours you may report through secure web site: <https://www.txabusehotline.org>

E-mail reports of suspected abuse or neglect are not accepted.

- Child abuse and neglect are against the law in Texas, and so is failure to report it.
- If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services or to a law enforcement agency.
- You are required to make a report within 48 hours of the time you suspected the child has been or may be abused or neglected.

Reports by People Who are Hearing Impaired, Speech Disabled

A person who is deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-disabled and wishes to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child or to report abuse, neglect or exploitation of the elderly or adult with disabilities, may use Relay Texas to contact the Abuse Hotline (Statewide Intake). Relay Texas can be accessed by dialing 711 or 1-800-735-2989. The caller uses a TTY to type conversations to a relay agent who then reads the typed conversation to a hearing person. The relay agent transmits the hearing person's spoken words by typing them back to the TTY user. Statewide Intake's phone number is 1-800-252-5400, or a report may be made by use of the Internet at <https://www.txabusehotline.org/PublicMain.asp>

What is Abuse?

Abuse is mental, emotional, physical, or sexual injury to a child or failure to prevent such injury to a child

What is Neglect?

Neglect includes (1) failure to provide a child with food, clothing, shelter and/or medical care; and/or (2) leaving a child in a situation where the child is at risk of harm.

How do I make a report?

1. Call the abuse and neglect hotline at 1-800-252-5400.
2. When you make a report, be specific. Tell exactly what happened and when. Be sure to record all injuries or incidents you have observed, including dates and time of day and keep this information secured.
3. Reports should be made as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before bruises and marks start to fade. It is important for the investigators to be able to see the physical signs.
4. Give the agency person any information you have about the relationship between the child and the suspected abuser.
5. Please provide at least the following information in your report.

- Name, age, and address of the child
- Brief description of the child
- Current injuries, medical problems, or behavioral problems
- Parents names and names of siblings in the home

Will the person know I've reported him or her?

Your report is confidential and is not subject to public release under the Open Records Act. The law provides for immunity from civil or criminal liability for innocent persons who report even unfounded suspicions, as long as your report is made in good faith. Your identity is kept confidential.

What if I'm not sure?

If you have reason to suspect child abuse, but are not positive, make the report. If you have any doubts about whether or not it is abuse, call the hotline. They can advise you on whether the signs you have observed are abuse.

Other important resources:

Dallas Children's Advocacy Center
3611 Swiss Avenue
Dallas, TX 75204
214-818-2600
www.dcac.org

The Family Place
P.O. Box 7999
Dallas, TX 75208
214-941-1991 (24-hr)

The Family Place Incest Recovery Services
P.O. Box 7999
Dallas, TX 75209
214-941-1991 (24-hr)

Genesis Women's Shelter
Drawer G
Dallas, TX 75208
214-942-2998 (24-hr)

Genesis Outreach
4411 Lemmon Avenue, Suite 201
Dallas, TX 75219
214-559-2050