

Mandatory Reporting

Call to Report Abuse

All suspected child abuse and neglect must be reported to the 24-hour Division of Family Services (DFS) Child Abuse and Neglect Report line at 1-800-292-9582. You may also call any Law Enforcement Agency or 911, but not in lieu of contacting DFS. You are not required to provide proof. Anyone who makes a good faith report based on reasonable grounds is immune from prosecution.

Reporting Law: Title 16 Del. C.

§ 903 Reports Required

Any person, agency, organization or entity who knows or in good faith suspects child abuse or neglect shall make a report in accordance with § 904 of this title. For purposes of this section, "person" shall include, but shall not be limited to, any physician, any other person in the healing arts including any person licensed to render services in medicine, osteopathy or dentistry, any intern, resident, nurse, school employee, social worker, psychologist, medical examiner, hospital, health care institution, the Medical Society of Delaware or law-enforcement agency. In addition to and not in lieu of reporting to the Division of Family Services, any such person may also give oral or written notification of said knowledge or suspicion to any police officer who is in the presence of such person for the purpose of rendering assistance to the child in question or investigating the cause of the child's injuries or condition.

§ 904 Nature and content of report; to whom made

Any report of child abuse or neglect required to be made under this chapter shall be made by contacting the Child Abuse and Neglect Report Line for to the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. An immediate oral report shall be made by telephone or otherwise. Reports and the contents thereof including a written report, if requested, shall be made in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Division, or in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Division. No individual with knowledge of child abuse or neglect or knowledge that leads to a good faith suspicion of child abuse or neglect shall rely on another individual who has less direct knowledge to call the aforementioned Report Line.

§ 908. Immunity from Liability

Anyone participating in good faith in the making of a report pursuant to this chapter, performing a medical examination without the consent of those responsible for the care, custody and control of the child pursuant to § 906(e) of this chapter; or exercising emergency protective custody in compliance with §907 of this chapter shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise exist and such immunity shall extend to participation in any judicial proceedings resulting from the above actions taken in good faith. This section shall not limit liability of any health care provider for personal injury claims due to medical negligence that occurs as a result of any examination performed pursuant to this §906(b)3 of this Title.

§ 914. Penalty for violation

Whoever violates § 903 of this title shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for the first violation, and not to exceed \$50,000 for any subsequent violation.

(b) In any action brought under this section, if the court finds a violation, the court may award costs and attorneys' fees.

Delaware Community Resources

Helplines

Delaware Helpline 211	Mobile Crisis (adult services) 1-800-652-2929 (NCC) 1-800-345-6785 (KC/SC)
Child Priority Response Crisis Helpline 1-800-969-4357 (HELP) or Text DE to 741741	Domestic Violence Hotline NCC: (302) 762-6110 KC/SC: (302) 422-8058
ContactLifeline Crisis Helpline (Sexual Assault) NCC: (302) 761-9100 KC/SC: 1-800-262-9800	National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - CyberTipline www.cybertipline.com 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)
RAINN – National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673 (HOPE)	Delaware Victim Services 1-800-VICTIM-1

Healing Resources- Treatment Providers

Delaware Guidance- Children NCC: (302) 652-3948 KC: (302) 678-3020 SC: (302) 645-5338	SOAR, Survivors of Abuse In Recovery NCC: (302) 655-9049 KC/SC: (302) 422-3811 Lewes: (302) 645-4903
Jewish Family Services of Delaware (302) 478-9411	La Esperanza Community Center SC: (302) 854-9262

Additional Resources

Children’s Advocacy Center of Delaware NCC:(302) 651-4566 KC: (302) 741-2123 SC: (302) 854-0323 www.cacofde.org	Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children Patty Dailey Lewis, Executive Director (302) 477-2018, patty@beaubidenfoundation.org www.beaubidenfoundation.org
Prevent Child Abuse Delaware www.pcadelaware.org	Darkness to Light www. D2L.org
Stop it Now www.stopitnow.com	Child Inc. – Runaway & Homeless Youth (302) 762-6373

For more information on the Delaware Initiative to train 55,000 Delaware adults or to schedule additional training:
stewards@beaubidenfoundation.org