## **HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: SOUTH DAKOTA**

## **DISCLOSURE TIPS**

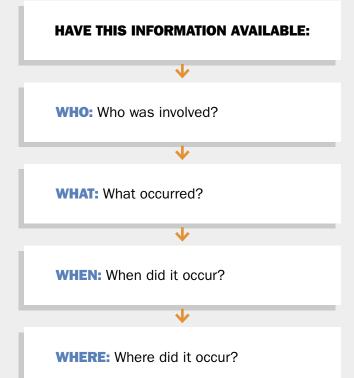
#### WHAT DO YOU SAY?

- An adult's reaction to disclosure plays an important role in the beginning of the healing process for the child.
- "I'm really glad that you told me."
- "It took a lot of courage to tell me."
- "It's not your fault."
- "We will work together to get you help."
- "I will need to tell some other people who help to protect children."

### WHAT ARE THE CHILD'S NEEDS?

- Be careful not to make promises that you cannot keep. Do not promise you will not tell anyone.
- · Report immediately.
- Only speak to those who have to know – confidentially.
- Gentle honesty keep information age-appropriate and general.

# INFORMATION NEEDED



**WHY:** Why did it happen (what were the circumstances surrounding the event)?

## **MAKE A REPORT**

If you believe a child may be in immediate danger, call 911.

In South Dakota, teachers are mandated reporters of suspected abuse. To make a report, call 1.877.244.0864. To report an emergency situation regarding child abuse or neglect before 8 a.m., after 5 p.m., on the weekends or during a holiday, please contact local law enforcement.

For more information regarding mandatory reporting, email CPS@state.sd.us or visit www.dss.sd.gov.