

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: ALABAMA

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



HAVE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE:



- Demographic information of the victim(s)
- Type of abuse or neglect suspected
- Is the victim in imminent danger?
- Location of the victim and caregivers
- Is there a protective caregiver present?
- Does the alleged perpetrator have access to the victim?
- General functioning of victim and caregivers
- Any safety threats for first responders



HOW TO REPORT

In accordance with Alabama law, educators and school personnel are mandated reporters. If you suspect a child has been abused, you must make a report to Alabama Department of Human Resources, Child Protective Services, or your local law enforcement agency.

- Find your contact information for your local County Department of Human Resources here: http://dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county_select.aspx
- *Note: Do NOT email reports of abuse.*
- For after hours reporting, find contact information here: http://dhr.alabama.gov/documents/AFTER_HOURS_TELEPHONE.pdf
- *You can also call 911 and make a report with your local law enforcement agency.*