

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: COLORADO

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:

- What, when, who, where and how often? Did anyone else witness the incident? If the perpetrator is over age 10, has law enforcement been notified? Have the parents been notified?
- Are there any physical indicators?
- Has the child made a direct outcry? What was said?
- Is the child reporting they have been inappropriately touched before?
- What is the relationship of the perpetrator?
- Where is the child now? Where is the alleged perpetrator now?
- When were the children last seen and by whom?
- What school does the child attend and how long are they there?
- Is the child reporting how often this occurs?
- Have the police ever been to the home to respond to assaults against adults or children?
- Have the children said that one of their caretakers is a victim of violence or is acting violently in the home?



MAKE A REPORT

Under Colorado law teachers are mandated reporters and must immediately report suspicion of abuse immediately.

To make a non-emergency report please call the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline; 1-844-CO-4-Kids or 1-844-264-5437. If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

Receive free online Mandatory Reporter training at:
<https://www.coloradocwts.com/mandated-reporter-training>