

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: DELAWARE

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



- Demographics
- Describe the abuse or neglect, why the child is at risk
- Known information about the parents or siblings
- Known information about the alleged child victim's physical health, mental health, educational issues or parents or siblings
- Is the alleged child victim in need of medical attention for injuries?
- Known information that could put the child's or worker's safety in peril such as presence of alcohol, drugs, weapons, dangerous animal, or criminal behavior



MAKE A REPORT

Delaware law mandates any person, agency, organization or entity to make an immediate oral report to the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Division of Family Services, when they know of, or suspect, child abuse or neglect under Chapter 9 of Title 16 of the Delaware Code and to follow up with any requested written reports.

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

Step 1: To make a report, please call the Division of Family Services Toll Free 24-Hour Report Line 1-800-292-9582.

Step 2: Complete a Mandatory Reporting Form, which can be found here: https://kids.delaware.gov/pdfsFillSave/fs_CAN_MandatoryForm_v2_FS.pdf Within 72 hours after the oral report, mail or fax (302-577-5515) a completed Child Abuse/Neglect Mandatory Reporting Form to the address below.

DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES - STATE OF DELAWARE
3601 North Dupont Highway • New Castle, DE 19720-6315

The Department will notify the Division of Professional Regulation of child abuse allegations.