

# HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: GEORGIA

## 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:



**WHO:** Who was involved?



**WHAT:** What occurred?



**WHEN:** When did it occur?



**WHERE:** Where did it occur?



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



## CALL AND MAKE A REPORT

To report, please call the **DFCS Child Protective Center** at: 1-855-GACHILD or 1-855-422-4453. Reports are taken 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

PLEASE NOTE: This phone line is for reports of child abuse and neglect ONLY. For general inquiries, please contact your local county office. Contact information can be located here: <http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/county-offices>

**\*\*School personnel are mandated reporters of suspected abuse and must make a report immediately. Failure to make a report within 24 hours makes you subject to criminal penalty.\*\***