

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: ILLINOIS

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)?



MAKE A REPORT

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

To report suspected abuse call Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline at 800-25-ABUSE (800-252-2873 or TTY 1-800-358-5117). Mandated reporters can also report online at: <https://bit.ly/2S6yIAN>

In accordance with Illinois law, teachers are mandated reporters and are required to complete a training to assist in making a report. To register for this training visit <https://mr.dcfstraining.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action> and create a login and password.