

# HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: MAINE

## 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

Teachers are mandatory reporters of suspected abuse.  
If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

To report child abuse or neglect:  
Call 1-800-452-1999  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Call Maine Relay 711

The Maine Child and Family Services line is staffed 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.  
Visit <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/mandated-reporters.shtml> for more information on mandatory reporting and free trainings for mandatory reporters.