

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: MICHIGAN

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:

- Your name and contact information (you may ask to be confidential or anonymous, please ask a caseworker to describe the difference between these two options).
- The name of the family you are calling about (parents' names and children's names and ages)
- A physical address (street name and house number, and telephone number for the family as well as directions to the home if you know how to get there.
- Work/school information for the adults/ children in the family.
- A description of the problem that you are concerned about.
- Your knowledge of other risk factors such as domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, etc.
- Any relatives or resources you are aware of (aunts, uncles, grandparents, family friends)



MAKE A REPORT

Michigan law requires educators who have reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect to make a report.

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

If you suspect abuse or neglect, report it any time day or night by calling 1-855-444-3911.

Mandated reporters must also submit a written report by mail, fax, or email within 72 hours of calling in a report. Download the written reporting form here: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/DHS-3200_524482_7.dot