

# HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: MINNESOTA

## 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 the child is in immediate risk of harm, please contact your local law enforcement agency or dial 911. Teachers are mandated reporters of suspected abuse.

To report suspicions of abuse, contact the county or reservation where the child lives during business hours. For a complete list of county phone numbers visit: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/services/child-protection/contact-us/>