

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: MISSOURI

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 believe a child may be in immediate danger, call 911.

By Missouri Law, teachers and educators are mandated reporters. Mandated reporters can report suspected child abuse and neglect by calling the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline directly 1-800-392-3738 or 1-800-669-8689, or by making a report online by clicking the following link:

<https://apps.dss.mo.gov/OnlineCanReporting/default.aspx>

*Online reporting should only be used in non-emergency situations.

As of 2004, Missouri law requires all mandated reporters to identify themselves when making a report. For more information visit https://dss.mo.gov/cd/pdf/guidelines_can_reports.pdf