

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: MISSISSIPPI

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 suspect a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

Call the Mississippi Centralized Intake at 1-800-222-8000 (Nationwide) or (601) 432-4570 if:

- The situation you are reporting is an emergency.
- You have insufficient data to complete the required fields using the online reporting system.
- The suspected abuse/neglect you are reporting occurred outside the state of Mississippi, and you do not know how to contact the state where it occurred.
- You prefer to call to report abuse.

Non-emergency reports of child abuse, neglect and exploitation in Mississippi can be made online: <https://www.msabusehotline.mdhs.ms.gov>