

# HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: TENNESSEE

## 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.

In accordance with Tennessee law, teachers and other school personnel are mandated reporters. If you suspect a child is being abused please call the child abuse hotline: 877-237-0004. You can also report online at: <https://apps.tn.gov/carat/>.

To access a free training through the University of Tennessee on abuse and reporting, visit: <https://lms.csw.utk.edu/login.aspx>.