

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: WASHINGTON

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 Washington law, teachers and other school personnel are mandated reporters. If you suspect a child is being abused you must make a report to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services:

24 Hour Statewide Hotline - Call 1-866-ENDHARM (1-866-363-4276), Washington State's toll-free, 24 hour/7 day-a-week hotline that will connect you directly to the appropriate local office to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

TTY Callers - call 1-800-624-6186 to place a direct TTY call.