

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: WYOMING

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.

According to Wyoming law, everyone must report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of child or vulnerable adult if they have reasonable cause to believe that it may be occurring. If you suspect a child is being harmed, you must make a report to the Wyoming Department of Family Services' local field office or the local law enforcement agency in which the child or adult lives or where the alleged abuse has occurred.

To locate the appropriate agency in your county, please visit <http://dfsweb.wyo.gov/social-services/child-protective-services>, and click "Contact your local DFS Office."