

Child Abuse

Online Training



Reporting Child Abuse in NJ

By law (N.J.S.A.9:6-8.10) in New Jersey, each district must develop procedures to report child abuse.

Anyone with reasonable cause to believe a child is being abused should

- › immediately notify their building Principal
- › immediately notify the Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP), formerly DYFS. Reporting through secondary sources creates unnecessary delays in reporting and does not satisfy the statutory requirement to report directly to DCPP

Under no condition should confirmation by another person to report abuse be required



Good Faith Reporting

- › Any person, who, in good faith, makes a report of child abuse or neglect or testifies in a child abuse hearing resulting from such a report is immune from any criminal or civil liability as a result of such action. All calls to the Child Abuse Hotline can remain ANONYMOUS.
- › However, any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect is subject to a fine up to \$1000, 6 months in prison, or both.



Signs of Physical Abuse

Physical Signs

- › Unexplained bruises & welts on face and/or body in various stages of healing, reflecting shape of article used to inflict, regularly appear after absence (weekend or vacation)
- › Unexplained burns (cigarette, rope or patterned especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks)
- › Unexplained fractures to skull, nose, face, various stages of healing
- › Unexplained lacerations or abrasions to mouth, lips, eyes, external genitalia

Emotional Signs

- › Wary of adult contact
- › Apprehensive when other children cry
- › Behavioral extremes of aggressiveness or withdrawal



Signs of Neglect

Physical Signs:

- › Consistent hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate dress
- › Consistent lack of supervision, constant fatigue or listlessness
- › Unattended physical problems or medical needs
- › Abandonment

Behavioral Indicators:

- › Begging, stealing food
- › Extended stays at school
- › Constantly falling asleep in class
- › Alcohol or drug abuse, delinquency (theft)
- › Statements of no caregiver present.



Signs of Sexual Abuse

Physical Signs

- › Difficulty walking or sitting
- › Torn, stained or bloody underwear
- › Pain or itching in genital area, bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vaginal or anal areas
- › Venereal disease, pregnancy

Behavioral Signs:


- › Unwilling to change/participate in PE
- › Withdrawn, fantasy or infantile behavior
- › Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge
- › Poor peer relationships
- › Report of sexual abuse



Signs of Emotional Abuse


Behavioral Signs:

- › Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking etc.)
- › Conduct disorders (anti-social, destructible, etc.)
- › Sleep disorders
- › Speech disorders
- › Inhibition of play
- › Hysteria, obsession, compulsion phobias, hypochondria.
- › Behavior extremes (passive or aggressive)
- › Inappropriately adult or inappropriately infantile behavior
- › Attempted suicide



What information will I be asked to provide to the hotline screener?

- › **Who** – Child's Name/Caretaker's Name, address and name of the alleged abuser and that person's relationship to the child
- › **What** – Type and frequency of abuse, current or previous injuries to the child and what caused you to become concerned
- › **When** – When did abuse occur and when did you learn about it
- › **Where** – Where did incident occur, where the child is now and whether the alleged abuser has access to the child
- › **How** – How urgent is the need for intervention and whether there is the likelihood of imminent danger to the child



If a person is falsely accused of child abuse, can he/she sue for defamation?

- › Yes. However, the person who believes that he or she has been falsely accused must demonstrate that the report of child abuse was **made maliciously**.
- › The reporter has immunity from civil or criminal consequences under N.J.S.A.9:6-8.13 if there was “**good faith**” reporting based upon “**reasonable cause to believe**” abuse had occurred.



NJ Child Abuse Hotline

1-877 NJ **ABUSE**

Make the call, Help a Child



If you would like more information

> <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/index.shtml>



Quiz

- › <http://classmarker.com/professional>