



## Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect in Colorado

The toll-free hotline Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline went live January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

The purpose of the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline is to promote greater safety for Colorado's children. Everyone in the community plays a role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The hotline is designed to provide one statewide, easy-to-remember phone number for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect 24/7, 365 days a year. All hotline calls will be routed to the county where a child resides.

Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline  
1-844-CO-4-KIDS  
(1-844-264-5437)

Available 24 hours a day, every day. Don't hesitate to call and get help.  
Anyone witnessing a child in a life-threatening situation should call 911 immediately.

### Types of Child Abuse and Neglect:

- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect
- Institutional Abuse

### Remember...

- Suspicion of abuse is all that is necessary to report
- Reports are confidential
- Know where the child lives
- You will be asked to describe your concerns about the child and it will be helpful if you can provide the child's name, age, address, gender, school attended (if possible), and names of parents

### Institutional Abuse:

Some children reside in an institution, and child protective services employees must address their safety while they are in an institution's care. It is possible that any form of abuse or neglect may occur while the child is in the care of an institution. If the maltreatment is caused by employees of the institution, it is classified as institutional abuse. Whenever anyone is aware of any form of child maltreatment occurring while the child is in the care of an institution, you should make a report.

## Child Abuse Reporting

Under the "Child Protection Act of 1987" (C.R.S. 19-3-301) in the Colorado Children's Code, child care center workers are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect. The law at 19-3-304 states that if a child care worker has "reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to

circumstances or conditions which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately report or cause a report to be made of such fact to the county department or local law enforcement agency.” Lutheran Family Services considers foster parents and respite care workers to be childcare workers so this law applies to all foster parents with Lutheran Family Services. Respite care workers will be included below in the category of ‘foster parents’.

“Abuse” or “child abuse or neglect” means an act or omission in one of the following categories which threatens the health or welfare of a child: skin bruising, bleeding, tissue swelling, or death; any case in which a child is subjected to sexual assault or molestation, sexual exploitation, or prostitution; any case in legal guardian, or custodian fails to take the same actions to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision that a prudent parent would take.

If at any time a staff member or foster parent reasonably suspects child abuse, it is the responsibility of that staff member or foster parent to report or to cause a report to be made of this suspicion to the local County Department of Social or Human Services or the police department. It is not staff or foster parent’s role to investigate suspected abuse - only to report it. Persons who make a good faith report are immune from civil and criminal liability. Additionally, the law provides for the protection of the identity of the reporting party.

A staff person or foster parent who fails to report suspected child abuse or neglect commits a class 3 misdemeanor and will be punished as provided in section 18-1-106, C.R.S. The staff person could also be liable for damages “proximately caused thereby.”

I have read and understand the above requirements concerning my responsibility regarding child abuse reporting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date