



## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Reporting child abuse or neglect is crucial because the impacts extend beyond the individual, affecting children, families, and entire communities. Abuse and neglect can lead to physical, behavioral, social, and emotional problems, with the youngest children being the most vulnerable. Most child victims are abused by a parent or someone they know, and neglect is the most common form of abuse nationally. Alarming, child abuse is a common factor in teen suicide attempts, underscoring the need for vigilant reporting to protect and support at-risk children. Reporting child abuse and neglect can protect the child and get help for the family. **All adults in Indiana are required by law to report abuse & neglect.**

## WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Frequent or  
unexplained  
bruises or injuries

Nervousness  
around adults.

Aggression toward  
adults, other  
children, or animals.

Inability to stay  
awake or  
concentrate for  
extended periods.

Changes in  
sleeping or  
eating patterns.

Sudden, dramatic  
change in activities  
or personality.

Acting out sexually  
or showing interest  
in sex that is  
inappropriate for that  
age.

Poor hygiene

**Suspicion of child abuse and neglect is enough to make a report, immediately.** You are not required to provide proof, but your report must be made in good faith. Failure to report or knowingly making a false report can lead to criminal and/or civil liability.

## WHERE TO REPORT

In Indiana, if you suspect a child is being harmed, contact the **Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline at 1.800.800.5556** or the National Child Abuse Hotline at **1.800.4.A.CHILD (1.800.422.4453)**. These reports should be made immediately; do not delay as a child's well-being may be at stake.

## WHAT TO REPORT

Child's name and address, if known.

Suspected perpetrator's name, address, phone number, license plate, if known.

Description of concern (what you have seen or heard).

Others are involved or have additional information about abuse.

Your name and contact information (report can be made anonymously).

## REPORTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

When making a report, you can provide your name and contact information, although you have the option to remain anonymous. Sharing your details allows hotline staff to follow up with additional questions, which can aid in their assessment and investigation.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The report will be investigated. If abuse or neglect is found, a case plan is developed, and services offered to the family. If the child's safety is at risk a temporary placement outside the home may be authorized. Placement outside the home is preferred with appropriate kin (relatives) if they can be identified and meet placement requirements. If the child is placed outside the home, services are offered to reunite the family and return the child to the home as soon as possible.

## PREVENTION & RESOURCES

*Studies show that through family education and support programs, the cycle of abuse and neglect can be stopped. Programs that provide support, information and early interventions are the best ways to help abusive parents and families at risk of abuse.*



### INFO AND RESOURCES

For more prevention and parenting information, and resources, visit our website at [www.pcain.org](http://www.pcain.org), call **1.800.CHILDREN** (1.800.244.5373), or call the **2-1-1 Hotline**.



### REPORT CHILD ABUSE

To report child abuse and neglect, please call **1.800.800.5556**



### SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS

Help support our statewide efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect by purchasing a Kids First License Plate. Visit your local BMV or [www.in.gov/dcs/2456.htm](http://www.in.gov/dcs/2456.htm) for more info.

**TOGETHER, PREVENTION IS POSSIBLE.**