

**CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH**
APRIL 2024 

**Kickoff Event
Virtual Folder**



**Prevent Child Abuse
Illinois™**

www.preventchildabuseillinois.org



FACTS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE



What is Child Abuse and Neglect?

Physical Abuse – an injury to a child that is not an accident, may include: hitting, punching, beating, burning, biting, kicking, cutting, shaking, or any action that physically harms a child.

Emotional Abuse – maltreatment of a child that may involve criticizing, insulting, yelling, swearing, manipulating, rejecting or withholding love.

Sexual Abuse – any sexual activity with a child, including exhibitionism, photographs or videos, pornography, prostitution, fondling, or rape.

Neglect – failure to provide for a child’s basic physical, emotional, medical or educational needs.

Who Abuses Children?

Most often the abuser is someone the child knows, such as a parent, relative, neighbor, friend of the family, or trusted adult like a teacher, mentor or coach.

Where Does Child Abuse Happen?

Child abuse can happen wherever children are; where they live, sleep, learn, or play.

How Often Does Child Abuse Occur?

Each year, close to 3 million reports of suspected abuse are filed in the United States. Many more cases never get reported. One victim of child abuse is one too many!

Where Are Illinois Statistics Available?

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

<http://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/newsandreports/reports/Pages/default.aspx>



WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE

Children who are abused may show physical and behavioral signs. You may be a child's only lifeline to safety. Please pay attention to the treatment of children around you. Child abuse is everyone's business. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected in Illinois, call **1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)**.

Children who have been abused or neglected may be:

- Nervous around adults or afraid of certain adults
- Reluctant to go home
- Very passive and withdrawn—or aggressive and disruptive
- Often tired, complaining of nightmares, or not sleeping well
- Fearful and anxious
- Showing sudden changes in behavior or school performance



Possible signs of physical abuse:

- Unexplained burns, bruises, black eyes or other injuries
- Apparent fear of a parent or caretaker
- Faded bruises or healing injuries
- Injuries that do not match the explanation

Possible signs of sexual abuse:

- Difficulty walking or sitting, or other indications of injury to the genital area
- Sexual knowledge or behavior beyond what is normal for the child's age
- Running away from home

Possible signs of neglect:

- Frequently missing school
- Acting overly mature or immature for the child's age
- Begging for or stealing food or money
- Extreme changes in behavior
- Lacking needed medical or dental care
- Delays in physical or emotional development
- Being frequently dirty
- Attempted suicide
- Using alcohol or other drugs
- Lack of emotional attachment to the parent
- Saying there is no one at home to take care of them

Possible signs of emotional abuse:

Many of these signs may also be present in children exposed to violence in their homes and communities, like domestic violence and gang violence. These signs don't prove that a child is being abused. But they could be a signal that the child and his or her family may need help.

Also know the signs of an abusive adult. Consider the possibility of abuse if a parent or caretaker:

- Seems unconcerned about the child's welfare
- Uses harsh physical discipline or asks other
- Denies problems at school or at home caretakers to use it
- Blames the child for causing problems
- Depends on the child for emotional support
- Sees the child as worthless or as a burden
- Seems indifferent to the child
- Avoids discussing the child's injuries or gives
- Seems secretive or tries to isolate the child from conflicting explanations for them other children and adults
- Abuses alcohol and/or other drugs
- Frequently blames, belittles, or insults the child
- Seems isolated from other parents, relatives, or social supports

These signs don't prove that an adult is abusive. But they could be a signal that the adult may need help.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE CHILD ABUSE IN A PUBLIC PLACE

Start a conversation with the adult to direct attention away from the child.

FOR EXAMPLE:

“She seems to be trying your patience.”

“My child sometimes gets upset like that, too.”

“Children can really wear you out sometimes. Is there anything I can do to help?”

Divert the child’s attention (if misbehaving) by talking to the child.

FOR EXAMPLE:

“That’s a great baseball cap. Are you a Cardinals fan?”

“I like your t-shirt. Did you get that on vacation?”

Look for an opportunity to praise the parent or child.

FOR EXAMPLE:

“He has the most beautiful eyes.”

“That’s a very pretty shirt on your little girl Where did you get it?”

If the child is in danger, offer assistance.

FOR EXAMPLE:

If the child is left unattended in a grocery cart, stand near the child until the parent returns.

If the child is in immediate danger, call the police!

Avoid negative remarks or looks.

Negative reactions are likely to increase the parent’s stress or anger, and could make matters worse for the child.



CALL THE DCFS HOTLINE:

1-800-25ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)



Adapted from Prevent Child Abuse America



WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A NURTURING PARENT

Begin today by being a positive parent or caretaker and help other family members, friends, and neighbors be positive parents too

- Make children a priority.
- Show and tell your children that you love them every day.
- Let your children know you are happy to be with them.
- Give children a sense of security, belonging, and support.
- Catch your children being good and give them lots of praise.

Really listen to your children

- Give children your undivided attention when they are talking.
- Be patient and remember that children move at a different pace when they tell a story about their day.



Spend time with your children

- Make some special time for each of your children.
- Play with them, talk with them, and read with them.
- Keep your promises.
- Let your children help with household projects.
- Tell your children about your own childhood.
- Go to the zoo, museums, and ball games as a family.
- Play outside, play a board game, do an art project or other creative activity.

Set a good example

- Use good manners, like saying “please” and “thank you.”
- Set clear, consistent limits.
- Consider how your decisions will affect your children.
- Open a savings account for college education.
- Resolve conflict with care and respect.
- Allow yourself a time-out when needed. Taking care of yourself is as important as taking care of your family.

Reach out to other family members, friends and neighbors

Need To Talk To Someone? Call:

- Talk to family, friends, and neighbors about parenting. Childhelp®
- Join a parent support group. National Child Abuse Hotline
- Get involved in something where you can socialize with other parents.
- 1-800-4-A-CHILD**
- Seek help if you need it. If you feel out of control or like a bad parent, get **(1-800-422-4453)** help.

There are many great websites for parents. Below are just a few suggestions.

www.babycenter.com | www.zerotothree.org | www.parents.com



HOW YOU CAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE!



THE 6 PROTECTIVE FACTORS

The Center for the Study of Social Policy spent 2 years investigating protective factors and how to keep kids safe. They reviewed research in the field of child abuse and neglect, prevention, and family resiliency. They also interviewed hundreds of experts, practitioners, and parents. Below are the 6 Protective Factors and how you can help build healthy children and strong families. For more information visit: <http://friendsnrc.org/protective-factors>.

Parental Resilience

- Help parents and caregivers see their strengths and find solutions to their problems by building on those strengths.
- Focus on flexibility and help parents learn how to bounce back from difficult situations.

Social Connections

- Give families a safe place to gather and make friends.
- Host or sponsor child and family events, such as health fairs, reading nights, and block parties. Encourage your place of worship, school, daycare, and work to do the same.

Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

- Share information with parents and all caregivers on child development and appropriate discipline. • Start a lending library of books and toys that will help parents understand ages and stages their child is going through.

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

- Link families to needed community services in a positive and respectful manner.
- Offer support to a parent who is under stress through babysitting, making a meal, or maybe just listening.

Social and Emotional Competence of Children

- Teach children to recognize and express their feelings.
- Help children learn how to share, cooperate and take turns.

Parent-Child Relationship

- Provide opportunities for parents and children to spend fun time together.
- Support home visiting programs in your area such as Healthy Families, Early Head Start, and Parents as Teachers which provide families with early bonding experiences.

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois has developed several tools to help parents and caregivers cope with the everyday challenges and joys of raising strong, healthy children. These resources and many others can be found on our website at:

www.preventchildabuseillinois.org/20-ways



WHAT YOU CAN DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Below are some suggested activities to bring [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) to your community or organization during the month of [April](#). With these activities, you can encourage parents, families, legislators, the media, and groups of concerned citizens to participate in child abuse awareness and prevention. [Contact Prevent Child Abuse Illinois](#) or visit our website to promote your event and have it listed on our [STATEWIDE CALENDAR](#).

Ideas For Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities

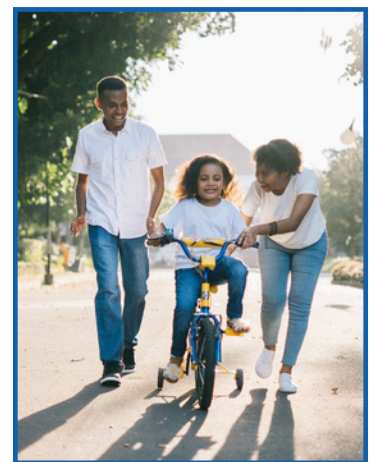
- [Attend a Statewide Media Event](#) – contact PCA Illinois at 217-522-1129 or online to learn about several annual [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) Media events held across Illinois.
- [Have local officials issue a formal proclamation](#) and hold a media conference to announce [April](#) as [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) in your community.
- [Host a breakfast, luncheon, or reception](#) honoring [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) and the work being done in your community.
- [Organize a Pinwheel planting or Blue Ribbon campaign](#) in your area. (Learn how on the following 3 pages of this packet.)
- [Participate in Wear Blue Day](#). (Learn how on PAGE 15 of this packet)
- [Use store windows, business lobbies and bulletin boards](#) to display posters, brochures and other material highlighting positive parenting and child abuse prevention. (See examples of brochures and posters at <https://www.preventchildabuseillinois.org/literature>.)



- [Get schools and parent-teacher organizations involved](#) by sponsoring an essay contest, poster contest, art display, material distribution, pinwheel display, [Wear Blue Day](#), or [Blue Ribbon](#) campaign.
- [Mobilize faith communities](#) to be involved in [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) activities by submitting articles for bulletins and newsletters, collecting donations for local charities, displaying pinwheels or blue ribbons, and hosting trainings or parenting classes.
- [Partner with local businesses](#) to host community workshops, health fairs, or fun events for families.
- [Collaborate with your local women’s clubs](#) or other clubs to host a baby shower or collect baby supplies for a local shelter or crisis nursery. (Find your local General Federation of Women’s Club here: <http://gfwcillinois.org/page10.html>)
- [Provide in-service education](#) or a [lunchtime workshop on child abuse prevention](#) for your office.

- [Organize a fundraiser](#) such as a golf outing, garage sale, 5-K run, trivia night, flower sale, movie night, etc. for [Prevent Child Abuse Illinois](#) or other family support agencies.
- [Join or start a Child Abuse Prevention Coalition](#) in your community. (See PAGE 18 in this packet.)
- [Purchase Child Abuse Prevention items](#) available through PCA Illinois. Items can be used for fundraising efforts, appreciation or recognition awards for parents, staff, board members, and volunteers. (To purchase pinwheels and other merchandise see the fliers at the end of this packet.)

April is also [National Library Month](#), [Alcohol Abuse Awareness month](#), [Sexual Assault Awareness month](#), and features the [Week of the Young Child](#) and [Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness week](#) – contact these groups and others for a collaborative event.



Remember to share lots of pictures of your activities with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! Use #GreatChildhoods #GoBlueIllinois



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COALITIONS

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Coalitions are local groups of community members made up of parents, social service providers, law enforcement, health care professionals, business representatives and others working together to address and prevent child abuse and neglect within their community.



CAP Coalitions have the common focus of preventing child abuse in all its forms by:

- Identifying child abuse and neglect needs in their communities.
- Developing a comprehensive response to those needs.
- Enhancing and providing public awareness and education.
- Linking families and community members to resources.
- Networking with others to ensure a community wide response.
- Developing and promoting **Child Abuse Prevention Month** activities and events.

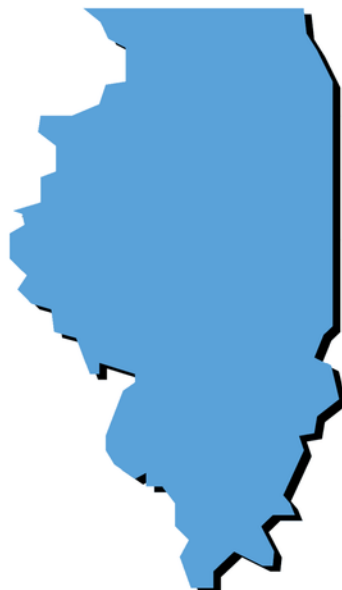
Benefits of Participating in a CAP Coalition

- Collective impact, being part of something bigger.
- Enhanced community relationships.
- Easier access to services and resources.
- Access to key members of the community.
- Increased opportunity to effect local policy.



Local CAP Coalitions can and do make a difference in the lives of children, families, and communities. Help great childhoods happen!

Want to join or start a CAP Coalition in your community? Find your contact below and get started today!



Cook County

Belinda Farr
bfarr@pcaillinois.org

Southern Illinois

Rachel Chruszczyk
rchruszczyk@pcaillinois.org

Northern Illinois

Jennifer Samartano
jsamartano@pcaillinois.org

Central Illinois

Jill Duden
jduden@pcaillinois.org

PREVENTION TRAININGS



Prevention starts with education. All trainings are offered virtually or in-person and can be adapted to small or large groups. Reach out to us today to schedule your training. Together we can create and sustain #greatchildhoods for all children!

INFANT CARE AND SAFETY

- Shaken Baby Syndrome
- Happiest Baby on the Block
- Safe Sleep for Babies

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

- Trauma 101: Understanding the Impact of Childhood Trauma
- Understanding ACEs: Why the Body Doesn't Forget
- Addressing Secondary Trauma: Prioritizing Our Well Being
- Effective Engagement
- Building a Road to Resilience
- Poverty: Cycles of Risk

SUBSTANCE USE

- Identifying Drug Endangered Children: A Collaborative Approach
- Moving from Awareness to Action

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
- Stewards of Children
- Child Abuse Prevention 101
- Childhood Neglect

OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Parent Cafés
- Paper Tigers Documentary Screening
- Resilience Documentary Screening



**CLICK HERE TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT
TRAININGS**

Contact us to learn more or schedule a training:

Kristin Kaufman, Director of Programs
Belinda Farr, Cook County
Jennifer Samartano, Northern Region
Jill Duden, Central Region
Rachel Chruszczyk, Southern Region
Kelsey Greene, ACEs Project Director
Brittney Hale, Home Visiting Specialist

kkaufman@pcaillinois.org
bfarr@pcaillinois.org
jsamartano@pcaillinois.org
jduden@pcaillinois.org
rchruszczyk@pcaillinois.org
kgreene@pcaillinois.org
bhale@pcaillinois.org

www.preventchildabuseillinois.org



WHO WE ARE

The Madison County Child Advocacy Center is a resource for children who are brave enough to disclose abuse. Through a confidential forensic interview, children are able to share their experience one time in a safe and supportive environment. Our team is dedicated to helping children and their families find hope and healing despite an abuse investigation.

We are part of a state and national network of Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) and we are an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance. There are 40 accredited CACs providing services in 100 of the 102 counties in Illinois. In 2023, 12,513 children received a forensic interview at an Illinois Child Advocacy Center. To find your local CAC, please visit www.nationalchildrensalliance.org.

OUR SERVICES

Forensic Interviewing

Forensic Interviews provide a child the opportunity to talk to a trained professional regarding what the child has experienced or knows that resulted in a concern about abuse. A forensic interview is conducted in a supportive and non-leading manner by a professional trained in a specialized forensic interview model.

Case Management/Advocacy

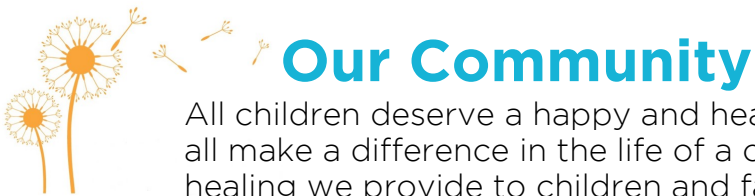
A Case Manager is available to provide information and support to child victims and their non-offending family members. The Case Manager meets with the family to gather information and to provide education about the effects of abuse and ways to protect the child from further abuse.

Trauma Focused Therapy

Site-based therapists who have specialized training in evidenced based trauma treatment are available to provide specialized mental health services to child victims and their families. Therapeutic treatment in the context of our greater team helps to stabilize children and restore hope and healing in their lives.

Prevention Education

Center staff provide child sexual abuse prevention education in local schools to meet the Erin's Law mandate. Children receive age and developmentally appropriate education to empower them with knowledge to keep themselves safe and create a safety network of trusted adults.



Madison County Child Advocacy Center | 101 E. Edwardsville Road | Wood River, IL 62095

Phone: 618-296-5390 | madco-cac.org | childadvocacy@madisoncountyl.gov |  [@madcocac](https://www.facebook.com/madcocac)

Partner with us!

The Madison County Child Advocacy Center is looking to grow our mission by partnering with members of our community. If you are interested in becoming involved in our efforts to raise awareness of child abuse and provide services for victims, please review the options below:



Community Awareness

Host a meeting or gathering at the Center and tour our facilities to give you a better sense of our mission and what children experience here every day. We also have educational opportunities regarding our child abuse prevention and education initiative.

Board Membership

The Madison County Child Advocacy Center is recruiting Board Members with a passion to give back. This is a great way to help children in your community!

Donations and Events

Provide hope for a family that has utilized the Center over the past year! From general snacks and drinks, to school supplies and holiday baskets, we are always collecting items to assist children and families. Visit our website at madco-cac.org to learn how you can make a monetary donation or donate items!

Attend Events

For information on upcoming event and ways to donate, sponsor or purchase tickets, please visit our website, madco-cac.org, or our Facebook page, facebook.com/madcocac.

To partner with us, please contact,
618-296-5390 or childadvocacy@madisoncountyiil.gov.

Host a Donation Drive

The Center regularly collects items such as individually packaged snacks, water, hygiene items, school supplies, toys, as well as food items for holiday baskets. All items must be new and unused.



HEARD.
SUPPORTED.
CONNECTED.



Rooted in Hope

Join our monthly giving society, Rooted In Hope, and you can impact the life of a child all year round! Click "Donate Now" at madco-cac.org and select recurring donation, then frequency, monthly.

MADISON COUNTY

Child Advocacy Center



2022 Annual Report

Since opening our doors in 2003, the Madison County Child Advocacy Center has been committed to providing a safe haven for children to speak out about sexual and severe physical abuse they have endured. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve so many children and their families in 2022.

Forensic Interviews

518 children were provided a forensic interview to talk to a trained professional about the abuse they may have experienced.



Case Management

2003 children and families were provided with information and support to navigate a child abuse investigation. Case Managers also provided connections to community resources and education to support children and keep them safe.



Therapy Services

262 children and their family members received specialized mental health services to stabilize children, help them heal from trauma, and restore hope into their daily lives.



Prevention Education

6,835 students received child sexual abuse prevention education to empower them with knowledge to keep themselves safe and create a safety network.



MDT Training

34 local Multidisciplinary Team Members attended training on our specific protocol and response to child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse investigations.



Community Connections

We are grateful for you...

In 2022, the Madison County Child Advocacy Center received amazing community support!

- 40 Backpacks filled with school supplies were given to students returning to school.
- 40 Holiday Baskets filled with food items and toys were provided to children and families during the Holiday Season. We also were able to provide 5 additional families with essential and immediate needs thanks to donations from this campaign.
- The Center received in-kind donations of individually wrapped snacks, school supplies, backpacks, hygiene items, and household items totaling over \$13,080 in 2022.



2022 OMS Survey Results

Children are always first. Safety is their number one priority. One of the people that helped us did a wonderful job explaining all the processes that took place. We felt very comfortable working with these fine individuals. They had wonderful energy to calm everyone in the room. The office was very clean and well-presented so the kiddos can open up and not feel like they are in a foreign place. The CAC is very kid friendly.

The staff were very friendly and informative. Our case manager made us feel very comfortable and was very helpful and friendly to us.

I just want to say
THANK YOU!

Everyone we dealt with at the center was helpful, pleasant, and friendly.

They were there to support and make myself and child feel comfortable in a safe place

Would highly recommend this place to others. Our Case Manager was very helpful and eased our anxieties

When you give to the Center, it's not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference. We are grateful that our donors are a part of our journey to ensure children are HEARD, SUPPORTED, AND CONNECTED.



Madison County Kids' Corner



PROGRAM SITE

Madison County Kids' Corner
101 E. Edwardsville Rd
Wood River, IL 62095

Hours of Operation

Staff to determine client
exchange or supervised
times according to
availability.

M- F 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Saturday 9:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday 10:00am - 8:00pm

To schedule mandatory
Orientation Intake Interview, call:

618.251.6214
(between 9am & 1pm)

PURPOSE:

Madison County Kids' Corner is a facility managed by the Children First Foundation. Children First Foundation serves families experiencing exceptional difficulty in the transfer of their children for the purpose of overnight parenting time or that require supervised parenting time. These difficulties often result in exposing the children to adult conflicts.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Parents must be court referred (Madison County, IL Family Court)
- *In order for services to begin*, each parent must contact Madison County Kids' Corner at **(618) 251-6214** within 7 days of receiving the Kids' Corner order to separately schedule and complete a *mandatory* Orientation Intake Interview
- Parents must agree to follow all the outlined program rules.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE:

- Assigned arrival/departure times, designated parking, separate entrances, and separate waiting areas are provided for each parent in order to prevent any physical or visual contact between parties from occurring during the exchange process
- Parties must observe the 15 Minute Rule
- Child exchanges are facilitated by Kids' Corners Staff members
- Kids' Corner Staff alone will supervise parenting time (outside parties or other parent is not permitted to observe)
- Only parents and/or others named on the court order (who have completed the Orientation Intake Interview) will be permitted to enter the facility

FOR MANDATED REPORTERS ONLY

Who are mandated reporters?

Members of the general public are encouraged to report suspected child abuse and neglect. However, state law mandates that workers in certain professions **must** make reports if they have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect. Mandated reporters include:

- Medical Personnel: Physicians, psychiatrists, surgeons, residents, interns, dentists, dentist hygienists, medical examiners, pathologists, osteopaths, coroners, Christian Science practitioners, chiropractors, podiatrists, registered and licensed practical nurses, emergency medical technicians, substance abuse treatment personnel, hospital administrators and other personnel involved in the examination, care or treatment of patients.
- School and Child Care Personnel: Teachers, administrators, certified and non-certified school employees, school board members, educational advocates assigned to a child pursuant to the School Code, truant officers, directors and staff assistants of day care centers and nursery schools, and child care workers.
- Law Enforcement: Truant officers, probation officers, law enforcement officers, and field personnel of the Department of Corrections.
- State Agencies: Field personnel from the Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Public Health, Department of Corrections, Department of Human Rights, Department of Healthcare and Family Services, and Department of Human Services. Supervisors and administrators of general assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code are also included.
- Others: Social workers, counselors, social service administrators, substance abuse treatment personnel, domestic violence program personnel, crisis line or hotline personnel, foster parents, homemakers, recreational program or facility personnel, registered psychologists and assistants working under the direct supervision of a psychologist, funeral home directors and employees, and members of the clergy.

Mandated reporters who make good faith reports have the same immunity from liability under the law as non-mandated reporters. **However, a mandated reporter's willful failure to report suspected instances of child abuse or neglect to DCFS constitutes a Class A misdemeanor.** A second or subsequent violation is a Class 4 felony.

Does reporting my suspicions to a superior satisfy my mandated reporter requirement?

No. While you may also inform your superiors (such as the school principal or an administrator) of your suspicions, this does not satisfy your mandated reporter requirement that you call the hotline.

Am I still a mandated reporter if someone who is now over 18 years old tells me he or she was abused as a child?

If the person reporting the abuse has reason to believe that the alleged perpetrator has had, or currently has, access to children under 18, you should call the hotline. In cases where the alleged perpetrator does not have access to children, contact your local law enforcement agency.

How should mandated reporters make reports?

Call the child abuse hotline as soon as possible. You must also send written confirmation to the appropriate DCFS field office within 48 hours. The department will provide a form to use when sending this confirmation. If you suspect a child's death may have been caused by abuse or neglect, you must also call your county's coroner or medical examiner.

NOTICE

Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012. A violation of this subsection is a Class 4 felony." (Source: P.A. 97-189, eff. 7-22-11; 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)

How can I learn more?

To help mandated reporters understand their critical role in protecting children, DCFS administers a free online training course entitled Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Training for Mandated Reporters. To access the training visit www.dcfstraining.org. The *Mandated Reporter Manual*, available at www2.illinois.gov/DCFS, offers more information about the guidelines for mandated reporters in Illinois.



www2.illinois.gov/DCFS

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CFS 1050-14 - Rev. 2/19

Care Enough to Call

To Report Child Abuse and Neglect

1-800-25-ABUSE

TOLL-FREE • 24 HOURS

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services



CARE ENOUGH TO CALL

Protecting children is a responsibility we all share. It is important for every person to take child abuse and neglect seriously, to be able to recognize when it happens, and to know what to do next. Care enough to call the state's child abuse hotline:

1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)

What are child abuse and neglect?

This year hotline workers will handle approximately 70,000 reports of child abuse and neglect. Child abuse is the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caretaker, someone living in their home or someone who works with or around children. The mistreatment must cause injury or harm, or put the child at risk of injury or harm. Child abuse can be physical (such as bruises, burns or broken bones), sexual (such as fondling, penetration, exposure to pornography, or incest) or emotional.

Neglect happens when a parent or responsible caretaker fails to provide adequate supervision, food, clothing, shelter, medical care or other basics for a child.

When should I call the hotline?

You should call the child abuse hotline whenever you believe that a person who is caring for the child, who lives with the child, or who works with or around children may have caused injury or harm or put the child at risk of injury or harm as defined in the Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Some examples of situations in which you should call the hotline include:

- If you see someone beating a child or hitting a child with an object.

- If you see marks on a child's body that do not appear to have been caused by accident.
- If a child tells you that he or she has been harmed by someone.
- If a child appears to be undernourished, is dressed inappropriately for the weather, or is young and has been left alone.

Use your own judgment and call the hotline whenever you think a child may have been abused or neglected.

When should I NOT call the hotline?

Some situations do not require calling the hotline. Use good judgment. Call only when you think a child may have been or will be injured or harmed as described above. Some examples of when you should **not** call the hotline include:

- Situations where a child is causing a problem that concerns you, but the problem is not related to abuse or neglect. In some cases you may wish to call law enforcement or talk to the child's parents or relatives.
- Domestic situations where family stress is evident, but the child has not been abused or put at risk of abuse. Community service agencies are often available to help.
- If you're seeking information about DCFS or its programs, the Office of Communications is available to answer questions. Call 312-814-6847, or you may call your local DCFS office.

What should I report?

Hotline staff are workers with special training in determining what constitutes child abuse and neglect under Illinois law. Details are important. Ideally, you

should be able to tell the hotline worker:

- The child's name, address and age.
- The nature of the suspected abuse or neglect, including when and where it occurred.
- The names of suspected perpetrators, if known, and their relationship to the child (parent, teacher, etc.).
- Any other information you think may help.

What happens when I call the hotline?

When you call, a hotline worker will listen to what you wish to report. The worker will then ask questions to help gather enough information to determine whether to take a formal report. If there is not enough information to make a report, the worker will tell you so and answer any questions you may have.

If a formal report is taken, an Investigation Specialist will begin the investigation within 24 hours—much sooner if the child is considered in immediate risk of harm.

How am I protected?

People who report alleged child abuse or neglect in good faith cannot be held liable for damages under criminal or civil law. In addition, their names are not given to the person they name as the abuser or to anyone else unless ordered by a hearing officer or judge. Members of the general public may make reports to the hotline without giving their names.

Should I call the police?

Always call the child abuse hotline to report suspected child abuse or neglect. However, you should also consider calling the police—especially in emergencies, when the child has been injured, or when the child is in immediate danger of being harmed.

THE ABCs OF SAFE SLEEP

Alone, on their **B**acks, in a Safe **C**rib



Your baby should sleep alone.

If you breastfeed in bed, soothe your baby back to sleep while standing and return to crib when she is asleep.



Always place your baby on his back to sleep.



Your baby should sleep in a crib with a firm mattress covered by a tightly fitted sheet.

Babies die every week in Illinois while sleeping on adult beds, couches, pillows, blankets and other soft surfaces as well as in car seats, bouncy seats and infant swings.



312.814.6800
www2.illinois.gov/DCFS

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

Silent killer: Sleep suffocation is the leading cause of reported child deaths in Illinois.

Your baby should not sleep in a bed, couch or chair with anyone, even other children.

If you breastfeed in bed, soothe your baby back to sleep while standing and return her to crib when she is asleep.

Always place your baby on his back to sleep.

Your baby should sleep in a crib with a firm mattress covered by a tightly fitted sheet.

Babies die every week in Illinois while sleeping on adult beds, couches, pillows, blankets and other soft surfaces as well as in car seats, bouncy seats and infant swings.

Additional sleep safety tips:

1. Keep stuffed animals, toys, pillows, blankets, quilts, crib bumpers and sleep positioners out of your baby's crib.
2. Don't smoke before or after your baby is born, and don't let others smoke around your baby.
3. Try using a pacifier when placing your baby to sleep, but don't force it. If you are breastfeeding your baby, wait until he is one month old or is used to breastfeeding before using a pacifier.
4. Don't let your baby overheat during sleep. Dress her lightly for sleeping, and keep the room at a temperature that is comfortable for an adult.
5. Your baby needs plenty of supervised "tummy time" when he is awake to help build strong neck and shoulder muscles. Don't let your baby spend too much time in car seats, carriers and bouncers.
6. If you are having difficulty getting your baby to sleep, contact your pediatrician or the Fussy Baby Network at 1-888-431-BABY (2229).
7. Visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Crib Safety Information Center at www.cpsc.gov for sleep safety tips and a list of recalled products.



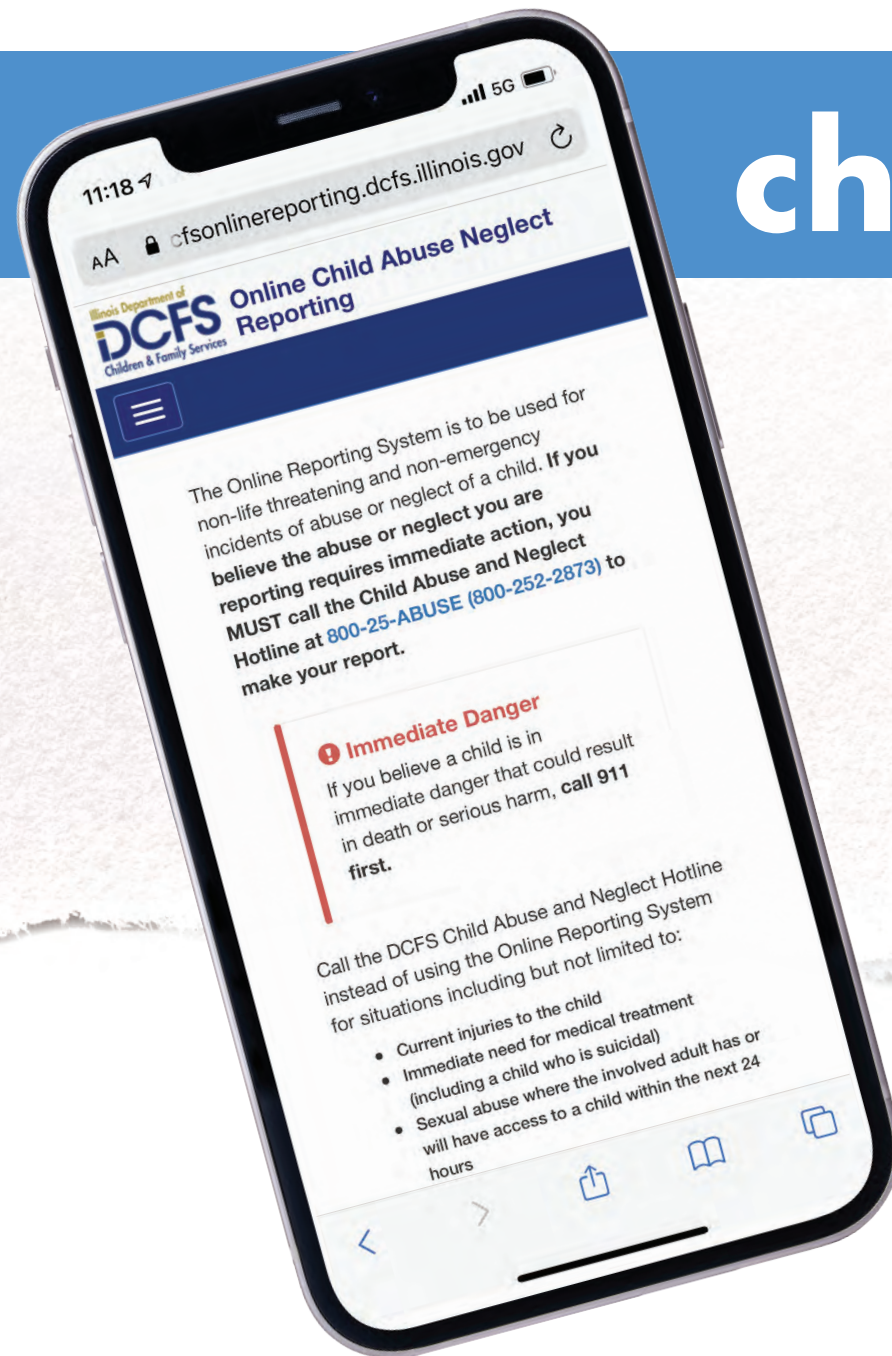
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Illinois Department of
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SAFETY  **SAFETY**
FIRST ALWAYS

Report Abuse or Neglect at childabuse.illinois.gov



Mobile Friendly

For emergencies call

**DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at
1-800-252-2873**



NOTICE

Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012. A violation of this subsection is a Class 4 felony. (Source: P.A. 97-189, eff. 7-22-11; 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)

www2.illinois.gov/DCFS

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Illinois Department of
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Children & Family Services

SAFETY  **SAFETY**
FIRST ALWAYS

RESOURCES for PARENTS

Having children can be a wonderful experience, but it can also be a difficult time adapting to changes in family roles as well as the demands and responsibilities of looking after them. The Intervention, Prevention, and Public Education Committee of the Third Judicial Circuit Family Violence Prevention Council has developed these guidelines to assist families in finding resources to help them during their children's early and growing years.

Emergencies:

- **Baby Emergency** 911
- **Alton Memorial Hospital Pediatrics Department** 618-463-7440
St. Louis Children's Hospital transport team and a mobile intensive care unit are stationed at Alton Memorial Hospital.
- **Poison Control Hotline** 800-222-1222
- **St. Louis Crisis Nursery** 314-953-8030
Provides emergency health care for children and helps families resolve crises.

Children with Disabilities and Special Needs:

- **Easter Seal Society of Southwestern Illinois** 618-462-7325
Serves children with disabilities or special needs.
- **Child and Family Connections (Mon – Fri; 8 – 4pm)** 888-594-8364
Provides services for children with disabilities or at-risk conditions; provides evaluations and assessments for children from birth to 3 years.

Healthcare Services:

- **American Lung Association of Illinois** 800-586-4872
Provides asthma education for parents and children; provides information and instruction in First Aid, infant/child CPR etc.
- **Southern Illinois Healthcare (Saint Clare's Hospital, Alton)** 618-462-4939
Provides low or no-cost healthcare for families.
- **Madison County Health Department** 618-656-6285
Provides immunizations; provides blood lead screenings for children age 6 and over.
- **Healthy Moms/Healthy Kids – Alton** 618-462-8155
– Granite City 618-877-3433
Provides healthcare services for pregnant women and young children.
- **Koch Family Health Center, Granite City** 618-452-3301
Prenatal and gynecological care; well and sick child care.

Resources and Referrals:

- **Refuge** 618-251-9790
Provides services for children and families who are victims of violence.
- **Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois** 618-452-8900
Provides child care, education, youth and family counseling, substitute care services.

Resources and Referrals, continued:

- **Coordinated Youth and Human Services** **618-876-2383**
Provides education and support services to parents; provides case management for pregnant women and their infants.
- **Riverbend Head Start and Family Services-Head Start/Early Head Start** **618-463-5950**
Home-based and center-based education, case management, health services for pregnant women and children from birth to 5 years.
- **Prevent Child Abuse Illinois** **618-583-2116**
Provides information about shaken baby syndrome, child sexual abuse prevention, childhood trauma, and much more. Provides Happiest Baby on the Block education to new and expectant parents about how to calm a crying baby.
- **Call for Help Sexual Assault Victims Care Unit, Alton** **618-462-0552**
- **Madison County Child Advocacy Center** **618-296-5390**
A resource for children in Madison & Bond Counties who are involved in allegations of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse.
- **Madison County Kids' Corner** **618-251-6214**
Provides supervised parenting time and Exchange Center program. Provides parenting education classes.
- **Chestnut Health Services, Maryville** **618-288-3100**
Adolescent addiction treatment services.
- **Oasis Women's Center** **Alton: 800-244-1978; 618-465-1978**
Jerseyville: 618-498-4341
Emergency shelter, counseling and advocacy services, information and referral.
- **Centerstone, Alton** **618-462-2331**
Counseling and wrap around services for children.
- **United Way Referral Service** **800-427-4626**
Information and referral service. **or 211**
- **Parents as Teachers** **Contact your local school district**
Serves families with children from birth to 5 years; provides information on what to look for and expect as children grow; provides monthly home visits and group activities.

Useful Hotlines and Websites:

- **Child Abuse Hotline Illinois** **800-252-2873**
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline** www.thehotline.org **800-799-7233**
- **Human Trafficking Hotline** <http://nhtrc.polarisproject.org> **888-373-7888**
- **Rape, Abuse, & Incest Network** <http://online.rainn.org> **800-656-4673**
- **Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Helpline** **800-662-4357**
- **National Children's Alliance** www.nationalchildrensalliance.org **800-239-9950**

*Having a baby changes your life – but it is still important to make time for yourself. Try to get enough sleep and rest, eat healthy foods, and exercise. This will also help you cope with your new life as a parent. Remember, it is natural to feel overwhelmed and frustrated at times. When this happens, try to reduce your tension and stress: Take deep breaths and count slowly to 10, or even to 100! Hug a pillow. Telephone a friend. Turn on some music, and sing along. Take a walk or some other exercise. Allow yourself to cry. Keep a journal and write down your feelings. Ask for help. Read a magazine. Pamper yourself – take a warm bath or spend time on a hobby that you enjoy. Ask someone you trust to look after your baby for a while. **Please remember: NEVER shake an infant or child for any reason. The injuries from Shaken Infant Syndrome can be devastating and even fatal to your baby.***

Don't panic

Pregnant? Scared?
You think you're alone.
You're not.



You can legally hand your unharmed baby up to
30 days old to staff at a hospital, police or fire station.
Walk away, no questions asked.



Anonymous Hotline
1-888-510-BABY
saveabandonedbabies.org

