

## FACT

Abuse and neglect have short- and long-term consequences, which can include brain damage, developmental delays, learning disorders, aggressive behaviors, depression and problems forming relationships. Survivors of child abuse and neglect may be at greater risk for problems later in life that can affect not only the child and family, but the society as a whole.

## FACT

90% of incarcerated male felons have child abuse histories.

## FACT

Child abuse is a common denominator in attempted teen suicides and adolescent/teen use of alcohol and other drugs.

## FACT

13% of all violence can be linked to earlier child abuse or neglect.

*Source: Twenty-seven year study conducted by the National Institute of Justice, the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Institute of Mental Health, Nurturing Today: Family Development Resources; Summer 2000*

For prevention and parenting information resources, call 1-800-CHILDREN

Visit [www.pcaain.org](http://www.pcaain.org) for more information about **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana.

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**1.800.800.5556**



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# When, What & How To Report Child Abuse & Neglect



A Chartered State Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America



## Why to Report

Reporting child abuse and neglect can protect the child and get help for the family.

## When to Report

Your suspicion of child abuse and neglect is enough to make a report. 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.



## Warning Signs

Some of the behavioral signs listed below may be an indicator of something other than abuse or neglect; however, any indicator which gives one "reason to believe" that abuse or neglect is occurring should be reported.

Some of the warning signs that a child might be abused or neglected may include:

- Frequent or unexplained bruises or injuries
- Nervousness around adults
- Aggression toward adults or other children
- Inability to stay awake or concentrate for extended periods
- Sudden, dramatic change in activities or personality
- Acting out sexually or showing interest in sex that is inappropriate for that age
- Low self-esteem
- Poor hygiene

## Where to Report

In Indiana, if you suspect a child is being harmed, **contact Child Protective Services (CPS) at 1.800.800.5556** or the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.4.A.CHILD (1.800.422.4453) immediately

## What to Report

Be prepared to provide the following information:

- The child's name
- Address of the child or where abuse is occurring
- The suspected perpetrator's name (if known)
- A description of what you have seen or heard
- The names of any other people having knowledge of the abuse
- Your name and phone number (you can report anonymously)

## Reports are confidential

The names of those making these reports are not given to families reported for child abuse or neglect; however, sometimes the nature of the information given, your identity might become evident to the family. You may request to make your report anonymously, but your report may be considered more credible and can be more helpful if you give your name.

## What happens next?

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, the local juvenile court may authorize temporary placement outside the home. 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.



If you would like information about preventing child abuse, visit Prevent Child Abuse Indiana's website at [www.pcaain.org](http://www.pcaain.org)