

Child Abuse Reporting Requirements

Action to take if you know of any child abuse activity, suspect it or a concerned Scout/parent mentions a possibility to you:

1. Contact Department of Children's Services Central Intake @ 1-877-237-0004 or if you are unable to contact DCS; please contact your local police or sheriff's department.
2. Contact the Middle Tennessee Council, BSA. This should take place immediately following contact with DCS or other authorities. Those to contact are:

Vance Lackey
Director of Field Service
615.383.9724 or 800.899.7268
615.707.9002

Larry Brown
Scout Executive
615.383.9701 or 800.899.7268
865.686.2028 (cell)

3. All information is strictly confidential. Please be prepared with as much information as possible to include name of suspected victim, address, age of victim, date of incident, name of alleged abuser, address of abuser, and description of the event or suspected abuse.

4. The proper authorities will conduct the investigation. Please **DO NOT attempt to do your own investigation.**

5. No other volunteers/general public/parents or other family members need to be contacted, please allow the local authorities to do their job in investigating the reported activity. **In the interest of privacy for the victim and the unit leadership**, refer all media inquiries to the Council office for more information. **DO NOT attempt to answer media questions!**

Reporting Child Abuse

The law says any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or acts of child abuse shall report this information immediately to the Department of Children Services. Department of Children Services accepts all allegations of child abuse and neglect by telephone and in person from all sources, including identified sources, news media, anonymous sources, sources that have incomplete information, and referrals from the child or parent themselves.

Immunity from Civil or Criminal Liability

Any person who pursuant to the law, reports abuse or neglect or testifies in a child abuse hearing resulting from such a report is immune from any criminal or civil liability as result of such action.

Penalty for Failure to Report

Any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect pursuant to the law or to comply with the provisions of the law is a disorderly person and subject to fine or imprisonment, or both.