

Reporting Child Abuse



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- Kentucky law requires that anyone who knows or has reasonable cause to believe a child is being neglected or abused must immediately report it to the following:

Child Protective Services Central Intake in your region – find the number here:

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/serviceregions.htm>

Kentucky child abuse report line 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331

Local law enforcement officials (best choice if child is in immediate danger)

- Anyone who reports abuse in good faith is not subject to prosecution and cannot be fired from job or be treated differently for making a report.
- Failure to report will result in prosecution. You can serve up to 90 days in jail and/or receive a fine up to \$250. Each incident is a separate offense.
- Information needed when making a report:
 - Child's identity
 - Person believed to be responsible
 - Physical or behavior signs of abuse or neglect observed
 - Where the child can be found
- You can remain anonymous or let the parent know that the report was made.
- Follow the law and your conscience when trying to decide if a family just needs support or if you need to report.
- What does Child Protective Services do after a report is made?
 - Determine if abuse is actually occurring.
 - Help the family reduce stress and cope better by using various community resources, education and counseling.
 - Ask the justice system to remove the child if the treatment potential is very low and the risks for the child to be abused again are high.

