

How do I make a report?

1. Call the Texas abuse and neglect hotline at (800) 252-5400.

OR

Call 911 or your local law enforcement agency if the situation is an emergency. An emergency is a situation where a child faces an immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in death or serious harm.

2. Non-emergency reports of suspected child abuse can be made online at www.txabusehotline.org
3. When you make a report, be specific. Tell exactly what happened and when. Document the date and time of the report and the case number.
4. Be prepared to provide demographic information such as address, parents' names, siblings, etc. if known.

Facts at a glance

Anyone who has cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected must report it to the authorities.

Professionals (including, but not limited to, teachers, doctors, nurses, and day-care employees) are required to make a report if they suspect that a child has been abused or neglected.

A professional may NOT delegate the duty to report to another person, and the report should be made as soon as possible and must be made within 48 hours of the suspicion.

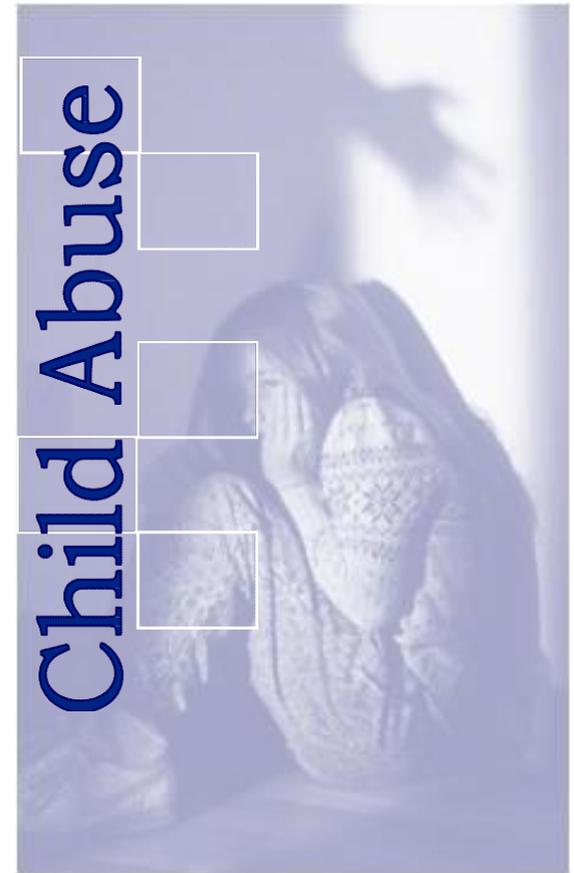
Failure to make a report of suspected child abuse is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, 180 days in jail, or both.



Bandera ISD

Reporting

Child Abuse



**It's not just what's right...
IT'S THE LAW!**

Suspicious Must Be Reported

If you suspect abuse:

DON'T try to investigate

DON'T confront the abuser or contact the family. Doing so could hinder the investigation.

DO report your reasonable suspicions

Warning signs of abuse:

Suspect physical abuse when you see...

Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes or burns, especially when the child cannot adequately explain their causes

Burns or bruises in an unusual pattern that may indicate the use of an instrument or a human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body

Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury

Aggressive, disruptive and destructive behavior Lack of reaction to pain
Passive, withdrawn,

emotionless behavior
Fear of going home or seeing parents
Injuries that appear after the child has not been seen for several days
Unseasonable clothes that may hide injuries to arms or legs

Suspect neglect when you see...

Obvious malnourishment
Lack of personal cleanliness
Torn and/or dirty clothes
Obvious fatigue and listlessness
A child unattended for long periods of time
Need for glasses, dental care or other medical attention
Stealing or begging for food
Frequent absence or tardiness from school

Suspect sexual abuse when you see...

Difficulty in sitting or walking
Frequent expressions of sexual activity between adults and children

Pregnancy in a young girl
Extreme fear of being alone with adults, especially if of a particular gender
Sexually suggestive, inappropriate or promiscuous behavior
Knowledge about sexual relations beyond what is appropriate for the child's age
Sexual victimization of other children

The preceding indications do not by themselves necessarily indicate abuse.

Report suspected abuse yourself!

It is suggested that, as a professional courtesy, you inform an administrator of your suspicions of abuse; however, this action does not satisfy or negate responsibility under Texas law to make a report within 48 hours. The Texas Family Code states that "a professional may not delegate to or rely on another person to make the report."