

Reporting Abuse and Neglect

If you believe a child to be a victim of child maltreatment, or if a child has disclosed abuse to you – make a report!

Contact the Department for Community Based Services Centralized Intake:
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at 1-800-752-6200 or the Statewide Hotline at 1-877-KYSAFE1 (1-877-597-2331) after hours, holidays, and weekends to submit a report.

You can also report online:
prd.webapps.chfs.ky.gov/reportabuse/home.aspx

If you feel the child is in immediate danger, call the police.




1-800-CHILDREN

Toll-free helpline

Monday-Friday, 9am – 5pm EST



 859.225.8879

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A Community Guide for

Keeping Children Safe From Abuse and Neglect



How do I support families in my community? When do I report suspected child maltreatment?

PCAKY.ORG

Do I report or do I support?

Support Signs

- Caregivers are unsure of local resources.
- Children mention being hungry or not having enough to eat.
- Children don't have appropriate/clean clothes.
- You see a parent dealing with challenging child behavior.
- The family's home is cluttered and dirty.

Support Actions

- When you see an overwhelmed parent, offer their child a compliment or tell the parent they are doing a good job.
- Know your neighbors! Exchange phone numbers for emergencies or other needs.
- Meet with the family and share your concerns. Ask them if there is anything you may do to help.
- Offer to help parents research local resources. It can be intimidating to find what you need when you are in crisis.

Families with these supports are less likely to abuse or neglect their children:

- Ability to manage stress
- Positive relationships
- Supportive community and resources
- Knowledge of child development and caregiving strategies
- Having their basic needs met

Most child maltreatment can be prevented with the help of community members like you.

Child Protective Services is responsible for investigating child maltreatment. Child Protective Services is NOT designed to be a resource referral for families in need – this is the role of other organizations and caring people, such as schools, churches, nonprofits, and community members.

Reporting is not the only way to protect children – the first and best way to protect children is to support and strengthen their families so maltreatment does not occur in the first place.

If you're able to make a report about a child or family, you may be in a position to provide support. Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky believes in community supporters just as much as mandated reporters. Since we all have a role to play in preventing child abuse before it occurs, we should all consider ourselves community supporters.

How can you strengthen families in your community? It starts with viewing families through a lens of empathy, non-judgement, and respect. Consider yourself a parent ally. Look for a family's strengths and opportunities to support parents. Look for ways to build Protective Factors that reduce stress.

Do I report or do I support?

Report Signs

- A child discloses physical or sexual abuse.
- You see unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts on a child.
- A child has a sudden change in behavior, such as being fearful or shying away from touch.
- A child has untreated illness or untreated physical injuries.

Report Actions

- Call the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline at (877) 597-2331.
- Take a Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse training offered by PCAK.

Understanding Child Maltreatment

- Physical Abuse: any non-accidental physical injury to a child caused by a parent or caregiver that causes or could cause serious injury.
- Sexual Abuse: any physical contact with a child for the sexual gratification of the adult or older child.
- Emotional Injury: the failure to provide understanding and nurturing necessary for a child's healthy growth and development.
- Neglect: the failure to provide a child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, or supervision.