

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## TEXAS

### CALL TO REPORT ABUSE

Contact the Texas Dept. of Family & Protective Services at **800-252-5400** or any Law Enforcement Agency at **911**. You are not required to provide proof. Anyone who makes a good faith report based on reasonable grounds is immune from prosecution. If the abuse occurred within the past 72 hours, a medical evaluation by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is available by going to the Emergency Department at Your County Medical Center or by going to the nearest child advocacy center.

### HELPLINES

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Texas Abuse Hotline (24 hour)               | 1-800-252-5400                       |
| United Way Crisis Helpline (24 hour)        | 888-421-1266<br>211(after hours)     |
| Darkness to Light Helpline                  | 1-866- FOR-LIGHT<br>(1-866-367-5444) |
| Childhelp: USA National Child Abuse Hotline | 1-800-4-A-CHILD<br>(1-800-422-4453)  |

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### Legal Help

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| TX State Bar              | 512-427-1463 |
| Texas RioGrande Legal Aid | 512-374-2730 |

#### Victim Advocacy

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center(West Texas) | 325-677-7895 |
| Brazoria County Alliance for Children           | 979-849-2500 |
| Henderson County HELP Center                    | 903-675-4357 |
| Texas CASA                                      | 512-473-2627 |

### RESOURCES FOR HEALING

#### Treatment Providers

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| TX Department of Mental Health | 512-776-7111 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|

#### Support groups for survivors and for parents and families of children who have been abused

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend | 1-800-834-0654 |
| Texas Family Support Services        | 806-342-2500   |

### WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND/OR TRAUMA

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <a href="http://www.darkness2light.org">www.darkness2light.org</a> | 1-843-965-5444                    |
| <a href="http://www.trauma-pages.com">www.trauma-pages.com</a>     |                                   |
| <a href="http://www.stopitnow.com">www.stopitnow.com</a>           | 1-888-PREVENT<br>(1-888-773-8368) |

THERE ARE SEVERAL CHILD  
ADVOCACY CENTERS IN THE  
STATE OF TEXAS.

Feel free to call the center  
with any questions about  
where to find resources  
related to child sexual  
abuse. Contact the nearest  
CAC to set up an interview if  
abuse is reported:

#### Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas

Visit  
<http://www.cactx.org/about/local-centers> to find the CAC in  
your county  
512-258-9920

#### Center for Child Protection

8509 FM 969, Building 2  
Austin, TX 78724  
512-472-1164

# MANDATED REPORTING

## TEXAS

### TEXAS STATE REPORTING LAWS

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/statutes/manda.cfm](https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/manda.cfm)

### PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED TO REPORT

*Fam. Code § 261.101*

Persons required to report include professionals, for purposes of the reporting laws, who are licensed or certified by the State or who are an employees of facilities licensed, certified, or operated by the State and who, in the normal course of official duties or duties for which licensure or certification is required, have direct contact with children.

Professionals include:

- Teachers or daycare employees
- Nurses, doctors, or employees of a clinic or health-care facility that provides reproductive services
- Juvenile probation officers or juvenile detention or correctional officers

### REPORTING BY OTHER PERSONS

*Fam. Code § 261.101*

A person who has cause to believe that a child has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect shall immediately make a report.

### INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

*Fam. Code § 261.101*

A professional may not delegate to or rely on another person to make the report.

### STANDARDS FOR MAKING A REPORT

*Fam. Code § 261.101*

A report is required when a person has cause to believe that a child has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect. In addition, a person or professional shall make a report if the person or professional has cause to believe that an adult was a victim of abuse or neglect as a child, and the person or professional determines in good faith that disclosure of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of another child or an elderly or disabled person.

### PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

*Fam. Code §§ 261.101; 261.202*

The requirement to report applies without exception to an individual whose personal communications may otherwise be privileged, including an attorney, a member of the clergy, a medical practitioner, a social worker, a mental health professional, an employee or member of a board that licenses or certifies a professional, and an employee of a clinic or health-care facility that provides reproductive services. In a proceeding regarding the abuse or neglect of a child, evidence may not be excluded on the ground of privileged communication except in the case of communication between an attorney and client.

### INCLUSION OF REPORTER'S NAME IN REPORT

The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report.

### DISCLOSURE OF REPORTER IDENTITY

*Fam. Code §§ 261.101; 261.201*

Unless waived in writing by the person making the report, the identity of an individual making a report is confidential and may be disclosed only:

- As provided by § 261.201
- To a law enforcement officer for the purposes of conducting a criminal investigation of the report of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect and the identity of the person making the report are confidential.

A court may order the disclosure of such confidential information, if after a hearing and an in camera review of the requested information, the court determines that the disclosure is:

- Essential to the administration of justice
- Not likely to endanger the life or safety of a child who is the subject of the report, a person who made the report, or any other person who participates in an investigation of reported abuse or neglect or who provides care for the child. The Texas Youth Commission shall release a report of alleged or suspected abuse if the report relates to abuse or neglect involving a child committed to the commission. The commission shall edit any report disclosed under this section to protect the identity of:
  - A child who is the subject of the report
  - The person who made the report
  - Any other person whose life or safety may be endangered by the disclosure

### HOW TO REPORT IN TEXAS

Anyone having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect must report the case immediately to a state or local law enforcement agency or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

DFPS also has a toll-free, 24-hour Family Violence Hotline: 1-800-252-5400

For mandated reporter training:

<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/training/reporting/>