



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**
MYFLFAMILIES.COM

FLORIDA ABUSE HOTLINE 2013

Reporting Abuse Of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Florida Abuse Hotline
Department of Children and Families
1317 Winewood Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Administrative Offices:
Phone (850) 487-6100 • Fax (850) 488-1319

To Report Abuse:

Phone 800-96-ABUSE (22873) • TDD 800-453-5145

Fax 800-914-0004

URL <http://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us>

Table of Contents

| Topic | Page number |
|---|--------------------|
| Our Mission | 1 |
| Confidentiality | 1 |
| Interpreter Service | 1 |
| Group Presentation/Outreach | 1 |
| Laws Relating to Children | 2 |
| Laws Relating to Vulnerable Adults | 3 |
| Mandatory Reporters | 4 |
| Legal Criteria for Reports for Children | 5 |
| Legal Criteria for Reports for Vulnerable Adults | 5 |
| Definitions | 6 |
| Where to find Florida Statutes and Administrative Code | 8 |
| How to Make a Report | 9 |
| Information Needed for a Report | 9 |
| What to do if there is a Hold Time When I Call | 10 |
| Reporting by Fax | 10 |
| Reporting by Web Report | 11 |
| When You Disagree with the Hotline Counselor's Decision | 12 |
| Making a Complaint about the Hotline | 12 |
| Tips for Successful Web Reporting | 13 |
| Tips for Successful Fax Reporting | 14 |
| Fax Reporting Form | Last two pages |

Our Mission

To provide quality customer service while assessing abuse and neglect, to ensure protection of Florida's vulnerable people.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All reports are confidential. Access to these reports is limited by specific criteria in Chapters 39 and 415 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.). Florida Abuse Hotline Counselors will not acknowledge the existence of any report, will not acknowledge that they have previously spoken to a particular caller, nor will they release any information provided by a caller or any information contained in a report. No reports are released by the Florida Abuse Hotline other than to those persons specifically authorized under Chapters 39 and 415, F.S. Any person with a statutory right to a report copy must contact the local investigative office.

The name of any person reporting child abuse, neglect or abandonment, may not be released to any person other than employees of the department responsible for child protective services, the Florida Abuse Hotline, law enforcement, the Child Protection Team or the appropriate state attorney, without the written consent of the person reporting.

The name of any person reporting vulnerable adult abuse, neglect or exploitation may not be released to any person other than employees of the department responsible for adult protective services, the Florida Abuse Hotline, law enforcement, or the appropriate state attorney, without the written consent of the person reporting.

The Florida Abuse Hotline is committed to providing quality assessments and a clear understanding of services available to customers whether from the Department of Children and Families or other state and community agencies. Telephone reporters, prior to concluding their conversations, will always be told whether the information meets the statutory requirements for a report and whether a report has been accepted.

INTERPRETER SERVICE

The Hotline has contracted with an interpreter service to accommodate over 130 different languages. Do not let language be a barrier to reporting abuse!

GROUP PRESENTATION/OUTREACH

Please contact your local Protective Investigations unit if you would like to have this information presented to a group of professionally mandated reporters.

Reporting Child Abuse, Neglect, Abandonment And Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults

LAWS RELATING TO CHILDREN

Chapter 39 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.) mandates that any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare shall immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline of the Department of Children and Families.

The Department of Children and Families is also responsible, as mandated in Chapter 39, F.S., for providing comprehensive protective services for abused, neglected and abandoned children in Florida by requiring that reports of each abused, neglected, or abandoned child be made to the Florida Abuse Hotline. The Department of Children and Families is committed to working in partnership with local communities to ensure the safety, well-being and self-sufficiency for the people it serves. Law enforcement takes the lead in all criminal investigations and prosecution.

In 2012, House Bill 1355 was passed into law and shall be referred to as "Protection of Vulnerable Persons" Ch. 2012-155 of the Laws of Florida. The bill adds to the current reporting requirements of 39.201, F.S removing the limitation that only "caregiver" abuse be reported to the hotline by requiring any person to report known or reasonably suspected physical or emotional abuse of a child by any adult person. The bill also requires any person to report known or reasonably suspected sexual abuse of a child by any person. The bill requires the central abuse hotline to accept any call reporting child abuse, abandonment, or neglect by someone other than a caregiver and to forward the concern to the appropriate sheriff's office for further investigation. The bill also states that the knowledge and willful failure of a person, who is required to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect is elevated from a first degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony. As a result, the potential prison sentence is raised from 1 year to 5 years, and the potential fine is raised from a maximum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$5,000. In addition, the bill creates subsections 39.205(3) and (4), F.S., which provide penalties for Florida educational institutions whose personnel fail to report certain child abuse taking place on the campus of the institution or during an event or function sponsored by the institution. The bill subjects the institution to a \$1 million fine for each failure to report child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

LAWS RELATING TO VULNERABLE ADULTS

The department is also responsible, as mandated in Chapter 415, F.S., for providing services to detect and correct abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults who, because of their age or disability, may be unable to adequately provide for their own care or protection. In taking action to prevent further abuse, neglect, and exploitation, the department must place the fewest possible restrictions on personal liberty and exercise of constitutional rights. The department's actions must be consistent with due process and protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Law enforcement takes the lead in all criminal investigations and prosecution.

MANDATORY REPORTERS

Although every person has a responsibility to report suspected abuse or neglect, some occupations are specified in Florida law as required to do so. These occupations are considered “professionally mandatory reporters”. A professionally mandatory reporter of child abuse/neglect is required by Florida Statute to provide his or her name to the Abuse Hotline Counselor when reporting. A professionally mandatory reporter’s name is entered into the record of the report, but is held confidential (§ 39.202, F.S. and 415.107, F.S.)

| OCCUPATION | CHILD | ADULT |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Assisted Living Facility Staff | | • |
| Adult Day Care Center Staff | | • |
| Adult Family Care Home Staff | | • |
| Bank, Savings and Loan, or Credit Union Officer, Trustee, or Employee | | • |
| Chiropractor/Chiropractic Physician | • | • |
| Day Care Center Worker | • | |
| Department of Business and Professional Regulation employees conducting inspections of public lodging establishments. | • | • |
| Emergency Medical Technician | • | • |
| Florida Advocacy Council Member | • | • |
| Foster Care Worker | • | |
| Hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of children and vulnerable adults. | • | • |
| Health Professional | • | • |
| Institutional Worker | • | • |
| Judge | • | • |
| Law Enforcement Officer | • | • |
| Long-Term Care Ombudsman Council Member | • | • |
| Medical Examiner | • | • |
| Mental Health Professional | • | • |
| Nurse | • | • |
| Nursing Home Staff | | • |
| Osteopath/Osteopathic Physician | • | • |
| Paramedic | | • |
| Physician | • | • |
| Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing. | • | • |
| Professional Adult Care, Residential, or Institutional Staff | | • |
| Professional Child Care Worker | • | |
| Residential Care Worker | • | • |
| School Teacher | • | |
| School Official or Other School Personnel | • | |
| Social Worker | • | • |
| State, County, or Municipal Criminal Justice Employee or Law Enforcement Officer | • | • |

Legal Criteria for Reports

CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR ABANDONMENT

The Florida Abuse Hotline will accept a report on a child when:

There is reasonable cause to suspect that a child (an unmarried person who is born, under the age of 18 and who has not been emancipated by order of the court);

- is a Florida resident, and can be located in Florida, or is temporarily out of the state but expected to return;
- has been harmed or is believed to be threatened with harm as defined by statute;
- by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

OR:

- is not a Florida resident but can be located in Florida and has been harmed in Florida or is believed to be threatened with harm in Florida as defined by statute;
- by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Florida Abuse Hotline will accept a report on a vulnerable adult when:

There is reasonable cause to suspect that a vulnerable adult (a person 18 years of age or older whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living or to provide for his or her own care or protection is impaired due to disability, brain damage, or the infirmities of aging);

- is a resident of Florida or currently located in Florida
- is believed to have been neglected or abused by a caregiver in Florida; or
- is suffering from the ill effects of neglect by self and is in need of service, or
- is being exploited by any person who stands in a position of trust or confidence, or any person who knows or should know that a vulnerable adult lacks capacity to consent and who obtains or uses, or endeavors to obtain or use their funds, assets or property.
- Reports of exploitation cannot be accepted after the vulnerable adult is deceased.

DEFINITIONS

Florida law is very specific about child and vulnerable adult abuse and neglect. A few of the definitions are mentioned below.

For CHILD reports:

“Abandoned” or **“abandonment”** means a situation in which the parent or legal custodian of a child or, in the absence of a parent or legal custodian, the caregiver, while being able, has made no significant contribution to the child’s care and maintenance or has failed to establish or maintain a substantial and positive relationship with the child, or both. For purposes of this subsection, “establish or maintain a substantial and positive relationship” includes, but is not limited to, frequent and regular contact with the child through frequent and regular visitation or frequent and regular communication to or with the child, and the exercise of parental rights and responsibilities. Marginal efforts and incidental or token visits or communications are not sufficient to establish or maintain a substantial and positive relationship with a child. The term does not include a surrendered newborn infant as described in s. [383.50](#), a “child in need of services” as defined in chapter 984, or a “family in need of services” as defined in chapter 984. The incarceration, repeated incarceration, or extended incarceration of a parent, legal custodian, or caregiver responsible for a child’s welfare may support a finding of abandonment.

“Abuse” means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child’s physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of a child includes acts or omissions. Corporal discipline of a child by a parent or legal custodian for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse when it does not result in harm to the child.

“Caregiver” means the parent, legal custodian, permanent guardian, adult household member, or other person responsible for a child's welfare.

“Neglect” occurs when a child is deprived of, or is allowed to be deprived of, necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment or a child is permitted to live in an environment when such deprivation or environment causes the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired or to be in danger of being significantly impaired. The foregoing circumstances shall not be considered neglect if caused primarily by financial inability unless actual services for relief have been offered to and rejected by such person. A parent or legal custodian legitimately practicing religious beliefs in accordance with a recognized church or religious organization who thereby does not provide specific medical treatment for a child may not, for that reason alone, be considered a negligent parent or legal custodian; however, such an exception does

not preclude a court from ordering the following services to be provided, when the health of the child so requires:

(a) Medical services from a licensed physician, dentist, optometrist, podiatric physician, or other qualified health care provider; or

(b) Treatment by a duly accredited practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing in accordance with the tenets and practices of a well-recognized church or religious organization.

Neglect of a child includes acts or omissions.

"Other person responsible for a child's welfare" includes the child's legal guardian or foster parent; an employee of any school, public or private child day care center, residential home, institution, facility, or agency; a law enforcement officer employed in any facility, service, or program for children that is operated or contracted by the Department of Juvenile Justice; or any other person legally responsible for the child's welfare in a residential setting; and also includes an adult sitter or relative entrusted with a child's care. For the purpose of departmental investigative jurisdiction, this definition does not include the following persons when they are acting in an official capacity: law enforcement officers, except as otherwise provided in this subsection; employees of municipal or county detention facilities; or employees of the Department of Corrections.

For ADULT reports:

"Abuse" means any willful act or threatened act by a relative, caregiver, or household member which causes or is likely to cause significant impairment to a vulnerable adult's physical, mental, or emotional health. Abuse includes acts and omissions.

"Caregiver" means a person who has been entrusted with or has assumed the responsibility for frequent and regular care of or services to a vulnerable adult on a temporary or permanent basis and who has a commitment, agreement, or understanding with that person or that person's guardian that a caregiver role exists. "Caregiver" includes, but is not limited to, relatives, household members, guardians, neighbors, and employees and volunteers of facilities as defined in subsection (8). For the purpose of departmental investigative jurisdiction, the term "caregiver" does not include law enforcement officers or employees of municipal or county detention facilities or the Department of Corrections while acting in an official capacity.

"Exploitation" means a person who:

1. Stands in a position of trust and confidence with a vulnerable adult and knowingly, by deception or intimidation, obtains or uses, or endeavors to obtain or use, a vulnerable adult's funds, assets, or property with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive a vulnerable adult of the use, benefit, or possession of the funds, assets, or property for the benefit of someone other than the vulnerable adult; or
2. Knows or should know that the vulnerable adult lacks the capacity to consent, and obtains or uses, or endeavors to obtain or use, the vulnerable adult's funds, assets, or

property with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive the vulnerable adult of the use, benefit, or possession of the funds, assets, or property for the benefit of someone other than the vulnerable adult.

(b) "Exploitation" may include, but is not limited to:

1. Breaches of fiduciary relationships, such as the misuse of a power of attorney or the abuse of guardianship duties, resulting in the unauthorized appropriation, sale, or transfer of property;
2. Unauthorized taking of personal assets;
3. Misappropriation, misuse, or transfer of moneys belonging to a vulnerable adult from a personal or joint account; or
4. Intentional or negligent failure to effectively use a vulnerable adult's income and assets for the necessities required for that person's support and maintenance.

"Neglect" means the failure or omission on the part of the caregiver or vulnerable adult to provide the care, supervision, and services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the vulnerable adult, including, but not limited to, food, clothing, medicine, shelter, supervision, and medical services, which a prudent person would consider essential for the well-being of a vulnerable adult. The term "neglect" also means the failure of a caregiver or vulnerable adult to make a reasonable effort to protect a vulnerable adult from abuse, neglect, or exploitation by others. "Neglect" is repeated conduct or a single incident of carelessness which produces or could reasonably be expected to result in serious physical or psychological injury or a substantial risk of death.

"Vulnerable adult" means a person 18 years of age or older whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living or to provide for his or her own care or protection is impaired due to a mental, emotional, long-term physical, or developmental disability or dysfunction, or brain damage, or the infirmities of aging.

If you are interested in learning more, including information on Florida's definitions, you can access the following URLs:

CHILD

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0000-0099/0039/0039ContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2012&Title=%2D%3E2012%2D%3EChapter%2039

ADULT

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0415/0415ContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2012&Title=%2D%3E2012%2D%3EChapter%20415

FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

<https://www.flrules.org>

(Go to Chapter 65C-29 and 30.)

Contacting the Florida Abuse Hotline

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

Everyone, including professionally mandatory reporters, should contact the Florida Abuse Hotline when they know or have reasonable cause to suspect that a child or a vulnerable adult has been abused, abandoned, neglected, or exploited. The Florida Abuse Hotline Counselor will determine if the information provided meets legal requirements to accept a report for investigation.

There are four ways to make a report:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| By Telephone | 1-800-96ABUSE (1-800-962-2873) |
| By Fax | 1-800-914-0004 |
| By TDD | 1-800-453-5145 |
| Web Reporting | http://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us |

INFORMATION NEEDED

Specific descriptions of the incident(s) or the circumstances contributing to the risk of harm are very important. This includes **who** was involved, **what** occurred, **when** and **where** it occurred, **why** it happened, the extent of any injuries sustained, and what the victim(s) said happened, and any other pertinent information.

Callers should have the following information ready or should provide it in the fax or web report:

- Name, date of birth (or approximate age), race, and gender, for all adults and children involved.
- Addresses for all subjects, including current location.
- Information regarding disabilities and/or limitations for vulnerable adult victims.
- Relationship of the alleged perpetrator to the child or adult victim(s).

Other relevant information that would expedite an investigation, such as directions to the victim (especially in rural areas) and potential risks to the investigator, should be given to the Florida Abuse Hotline Counselor.

Do not delay in contacting the Florida Abuse Hotline even if you do not have all the necessary information. The Florida Abuse Hotline Counselor will make an assessment based on the available information, and will decide if it is sufficient to accept a report for investigation.

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A HOLD TIME WHEN I CALL

There are times when all Florida Abuse Hotline Counselors are either taking calls or entering reports. Please be patient, and do not hang up. Your call will be answered by the next available counselor. Counselors are trained to handle each call as quickly as possible, while ensuring that each caller is afforded quality service.

However, if the situation is an emergency or the victim is in imminent danger, the caller should hang up, dial 911, and then follow-up with a call to the Abuse Hotline.

MAKE A RECORD OF YOUR CALL

Florida Abuse Hotline Counselors are required to identify themselves by giving their first name and their identification number. Reporters may want to document this information along with the date and time of the call. Counselors are expected to inform the caller whether the information meets the statutory requirements for a report and whether a report has been accepted. They may also provide you with information on available services, whether those services are provided by the Department of Children and Families staff or other state and community agencies.

REPORTING BY FAX

Transmittal of the fax form to the Florida Abuse Hotline is one reporting option; **however, the preferred option for the Department of Children and Families is for you to call 1-800-96-ABUSE, and talk to a Hotline counselor.** In all cases of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation that involve emergency or critical situations, please call the Hotline.

The information in the fax will be assessed to see if it meets the legal criteria as a report for investigation. It is extremely important that all information be completed. Add extra pages if this format is too limited in the space provided for response. Your fax cannot be properly assessed for a report without the requested information. A means to locate the victim is required. By law (Chapters 39, Florida Statutes), your identity as the reporter will be protected. Also, identify others who might be aware of the abuse/neglect/exploitation of the victim. **Please type or print legibly.** Indicate if you want notification whether or not a report was accepted and your preferred method.

REPORTING BY WEB REPORT

You may use the following web address to report on line:

<http://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us>

The following information is needed to make a web report:

At least one victim

At least one alleged perpetrator (only exception is for an adult self neglect report type)

A brief but detailed response to all questions asked

Web reporting should only be used to report NON-EMERGENCY situations.

The information in the web report will be assessed to see if it meets the legal criteria as a report for investigation. It is extremely important to complete all fields and to provide as much detail as possible. Your web report cannot be properly assessed for a report without the requested information. A means to locate the victim is required. By law (Chapters 39, Florida Statutes), your identity as the reporter will be protected. Also, identify others who might be aware of the abuse/neglect/exploitation of the victim. Indicate if you want notification whether or not a report was accepted.

The benefits of web reporting are:

No hold or wait times when reporting concerns

Report concerns at one's own pace

Frequent reporters can create their own account that will pre-populate their information so as not to duplicate

The ability to upload pictures and documents to accompany the report

Courtesy and Professionalism at the Florida Abuse Hotline

WHEN YOU DISAGREE WITH THE HOTLINE COUNSELOR'S DECISION:

Hotline counselors accept reports on the basis of specific criteria from Florida Statutes. Counselors must ask questions to gather information, but may not ask leading questions of the caller. Each call is accepted or not as a report based only on information provided during the call. If the counselor tells you they are not accepting a report and you disagree with the decision, you may ask to speak to a Supervisor. The counselor will briefly summarize the situation to the supervisor who will then speak with you regarding your concerns. The supervisor will decide whether the counselor's decision was appropriate and will provide you with further explanation about the decision.

TO MAKE A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE HOTLINE:

We understand that reporting abuse or neglect is not an easy thing to do and we commend all reporters who make the effort to protect children and vulnerable adults. The Department of Children and Families does not always have the authority to intervene in situations that are of concern to the persons calling the Hotline. We appreciate callers who use the same courtesy and professionalism expected from the Hotline staff, and we want to know if you have a concern about the quality of service or professional courtesy that you received at the Hotline. During the call, the counselor is required to provide you with his/her first name and ID number. We encourage you to share any concerns with the:

Hotline Supervisor,
Call Floor Manager, or
Director of the Hotline.

You may ask to be transferred to any of these administrators or you may telephone (850) 487-6100 during regular office hours. All complaints are carefully evaluated and will be responded to in a timely manner.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL WEB REPORTING

- 1.) This system can be accessed from the DCF Internet Home web page at <http://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us>
- 2.) You cannot use this method of making a report if you wish to remain anonymous. Please call 1-800-96ABUSE (800-962-2873).
- 3.) Required information to use this web site:
 - a) At least one victim – can be up to 10 victim's
 - b) At least one alleged perpetrator (only exception is for a self neglect report type)
 - c) A brief but detailed response to all questions asked
- 4.) Red asterisk (*) data fields are required fields and must be completed. For each type of report, Adult, Child or Self-Neglect there are different business rules associated with the web screen. Pay careful attention to the instructions on the screen.
- 5.) You must have a complete address for the alleged victim(s) and alleged perpetrator(s), a valid phone number, or detailed directions on how to locate them.
- 6.) Using the Tab key between fields is easier than using the mouse.
- 7.) There are three different types of reports you can make: Child victim, Adult Victim and Self-Neglect (for adults only). As you select one of the types, dynamic instructions on the web page will appear to guide you and the drop-down values in the selection boxes throughout the web report are different.
- 8.) Please be as detailed as possible when answering the questions. Please do not use profession specific language; i.e., "fx" for fracture. Remember, someone at the Hotline will be reviewing the information that you entered to determine if the information given meets the requirements for a report.
- 9.) Please remember to proof read what you have entered on each page before going on to the next page. You can also hit the Previous or Next buttons to move around the web report, also the summary web page allows you to go back and edit each section.
- 10.) When you have completed all of the required information, review all information on the summary web page. You must select the submit button to send the information to the Hotline for review. Once you hit submit, you will be taken to the confirmation web page and given a confirmation number. In order to keep all data confidential, the confirmation web page is the ONLY web page that is printable.
- 11.) Your session will time out after 30 minutes of inactivity. After this, you will need to start a new report.
- 12.) When entering the Age information for alleged victims or perpetrator, please note either estimated age OR Date of Birth is required. If age is estimated, the system will calculate an estimated age of 01/01/XXXX. If date of birth is known, estimated age will also auto-calculate. Please pick one and the web system will do the rest.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL FAX REPORTING

Your time is valuable. Everyone at the Florida Abuse Hotline is committed to making the reporting process as convenient as possible. The following tips are provided to assist you in making reports of abuse, neglect, abandonment, and exploitation. When sending a fax to the Florida Abuse Hotline, consider the following:

- Use the Department of Children and Families' form when possible (a copy is contained in this packet). It is designed to help you provide the required information.
- If you cannot use the Department's form, please send a concise description of the situation. Be sure to include the following information:
 - Victim name, possible responsible person, or alleged perpetrator names.
 - Reporter name (required for mandatory reporters of child abuse/neglect).
 - Complete addresses for subjects, including a numbered street address, apartment or lot number, city, state, and zip code.
 - Telephone numbers, including area code. Please indicate if the phone number is for a cell phone.
 - Dates of birth or approximate ages.
 - Social Security numbers, if available.
 - A brief, yet concise, description of the abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation, including physical, mental or sexual injuries, if any.
 - Names and telephone numbers and/or addresses of witnesses and others involved.
 - A brief description of the victim's disability or infirmity (required for vulnerable adults).
 - The relationship of the alleged perpetrator to the victim.
- Please print or write in a legible manner. Type, if at all possible.
- Do not use profession specific language; i.e., "fx" for fracture.
- Do not send copies of medical notes, case files, arrest reports, etc.
- **Always call 800-96ABUSE in emergency or critical situations.** The time required to process a fax may be longer than the time required to process information given in a telephone call. This could delay assistance to victims.





FLORIDA ABUSE HOTLINE Fax Transmittal Form
To Report Abuse/Abandonment/Neglect/Threatened Harm/Exploitation
Fax Number: 1-800-914-0004
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REPORTING ABUSE, READ THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BROCHURE:
REPORTING ABUSE OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS.

REPORTER INFORMATION

This information is required for professionally mandated reporters - Please refer to Chapters 39 and 415, Florida Statutes.

Your Last Name: _____ Your First Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Your Occupation: _____ Agency: _____ Fax #: _____ Phone #: _____

Work Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____ State: _____

Alternate Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone #: _____

VICTIM INFORMATION

If the victim is a child, list other children and adult household members in the home. If any household members have a disability, describe the disability in the DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT section on page 2; if the victim is an adult, include how his/her ability to care for or protect self is impaired.

Current Location/Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____ State: _____

Home Address: _____ Apt/Lot# _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____ State: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | DOB | SEX | RACE | SSN | IS THIS PERSON A VICTIM? |
|-----------|------------|-----|-----|------|-----|--|
| (1) | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (2) | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (3) | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (4) | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (5) | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLEGED ABUSE, NEGLECT, ABANDONMENT, THREATENED HARM OR EXPLOITATION

| NAME | DOB | SEX | RACE | SSN | RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM |
|------|-----|-----|------|-----|------------------------|
| (1) | | | | | |
| (2) | | | | | |
| (3) | | | | | |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

Please describe what happened, when and where the incident occurred, the frequency of occurrence, and a description of injuries and/or threat of harm.

WHAT happened?

Description of injuries/threat of harm:

WHEN and WHERE did the incident occur?

Additional Addresses (e.g. day-care, school)

Where will the victim be for the next 24 hours?

Does anyone in the household have any disabilities?

Are there any dangers to a protective investigator?

FOR ADULT VICTIMS ONLY: Describe how the adult victim's ability to care for or protect self is impaired.

OTHER INDIVIDUALS

Please list others who might be aware of the abuse/abandonment/neglect/threatened harm/exploitation of the victim.

| NAME | RELATIONSHIP TO THE VICTIM | ADDRESS | HOME PHONE | WORK PHONE |
|------|----------------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

DO NOT SEND COPIES OF MEDICAL NOTES, CASE FILES, ARREST REPORTS, OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS.