Promise TO Protect
Safe Environment Program

Mandated Reporters

Under Pennsylvania law, any person, paid or unpaid, who works, volunteers and/or comes into direct contact with children in a program, activity or service is a mandated reporter and must immediately report suspicions of child abuse or neglect.

Within the Archdiocese, this includes all members of clergy, parish and school staff, and volunteers who are likely to come into direct contact with children.

"The prevention of child abuse and protection of young people are two of our greatest shared responsibilities."

— Archbishop Charles Chaput

Please remember the Office for Child and Youth Protection is available to help survivors of sexual abuse and their families.

Victim Services can be reached at (888) 800-8780 or (215) 587-3880 or email at philavac@archphila.org

Office for Child and Youth Protection | Archdiocese of Philadelphia

www.childyouthprotection.org **www.archphila.org**

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MANDATED REPORTING

Over the last decade the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has become a leader in developing safe environments for children. Through education and awareness, the Office of Child and Youth Protection assist parish families, Catholic school families and their communities with resources and services.

Office for Child and Youth Protection | Archdiocese of Philadelphia

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What must be reported?

The Standard for reporting suspected abuse/neglect in Pennsylvania is a "reasonable cause to believe" that a child is the victim of abuse/neglect. First hand observation of abuse is not required.

Indicators of Abuse *(Source: PA Family Support Alliance)*

As mandated reporters, it is important that you are able to recognize indicators of abuse.

Signs of Physical Abuse

- Unexplained bruises, welts, human bite marks, bald spots
- Numerous bruises in various stages of healing
- Marks on many surfaces of the body
- Unexplained burns, especially cigarette or immersion burns
- Withdrawal or aggression—behavioral extremes
- Uncomfortable with physical contact
- Afraid to go home
- Dressed inappropriately for the weather
- Cringes when approached by an adult (fears getting hit)
- Overreacts to accidents such as spilling milk
- Does not want to talk about home life
- Extreme attachment to parents
- Extreme attentiveness to needs of parents

Signs of Neglect or Psychological Abuse

- Unattended medical needs
- Consistent lack of supervision
- Persistent hunger, poor hygiene or inappropriate dress
- Distended stomach or emaciated body
- Delayed physical development
- Substance abuse
- Regularly displays fatigue or listlessness
- Steals food or begs
- Habit disorders (sucking, rocking, etc.)
- Passive or aggressive behavior extremes
- Neurotic traits such as sleep disorders or inhibition of play

Signs of Sexual Abuse:

- Pain or itching in genital area
- Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia
- Frequent urinary or yeast infections
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- A child's report or self-disclosure
- Sexual knowledge beyond what is natural for a child
- Preoccupation with their body
- Acting out sexual behavior
- Withdrawal, chronic depression
- Self devaluation and lack of confidence
- Problems with bedtime or afraid to go to bed
- Bedwetting — especially if it begins in a child who has been dry

How do I make a report if I suspect abuse?

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, the following three steps must be followed:

1. Call ChildLine at **800-932-0313.**
2. Within 48-hours of your report, submit a written CY-47 report with the county Children & Youth services where the alleged abuse took place. The CY-47 may be completed electronically on the Department of Human Services website at **KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov** or downloaded from OCYP's website at **childyouthprotection.org.**
3. Notify the person in charge of the institution immediately.