

## How to report Child Abuse and Neglect

Anyone who suspects that a child is being abused or neglected should make a referral to their local Children Services Agency. Morrow County Children Services is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. During business hours, Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 4:30 pm, please call 419-947-9111 and ask for the worker of the day. During non-business hours 2151.421 states that if a mandated reporter knows of or suspects child abuse or neglect, he/or she must report the abuse, neglect or suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to the local children services agency. Mandated reporters who make a report in their mandated capacity are entitled to certain information other reporters of abuse and neglect are not entitled to receive. This information includes whether the information was screened in for investigation, whether the child is safe, if the case has been closed and if there is a filing in juvenile court. A mandated reporter may call the agency to obtain this information. For reporters that are not determined to be mandated reports, information can only be shared if the custodial parent signs a release allowing the agency to share information regarding their involvement with the agency.

### How to Make A Referral

Any person can make a report to Children Services if they are concerned with the welfare of a child. Reports can be made over the phone, in person, fax or by letter. Which ever method is chosen to make a report, the agency is need of the following information if it is available.

### Information Needed

- The name and age of the child (preferable a birth date also)
- Address of the child
- Who the alleged perpetrator is and the address
- Information on the perpetrator's access to the child
- Names of parents and/or caretakers
- Address of the legal parent and/or caretakers
- Names of any other children or adults living in the home.
- Information (specific as possible) regarding the alleged abuse or neglect. The date of the incident(s), other possible victims, witnesses, etc. How long the issue has existed, if the issue has ever been addressed with the parent/caretaker
- Names and contact information for others who may know information regarding the allegations.
- Names of any known relatives and contact information
- Concerns regarding drugs, alcohol, domestic violence

This is the preferred information. However, call with whatever information you have and feel free to call us back if you find additional information. In order to investigate a report, we must have at a minimum, information to be able to identify the victim and/or a way to locate the victim. hours, an on-call worker is available to handle emergencies and receive reports of abuse and neglect. Please contact the Morrow County Sheriff's Office

at 419-946-4444. Any person who knowingly makes or causes another person to make a false report that alleges that any person has committed an act or omission that resulted in a child being abused or neglected is guilty of a violation of section 2921.14 and can be prosecuted.

Some professionals are mandated by law (ORC 2151.421) to report abuse or neglect, including attorneys, physicians, day care center staff, social workers, speech pathologists, school personnel and children services agency staff. The Ohio Revised Code provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for those who “participating in good faith” make a report of possible abuse or neglect, and also requires children services agencies to keep confidential the referral source. In general, mandated reporters are individuals who work with children in a professional capacity.