

PROCEDURE TO REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT

NH Law requires that any New Hampshire person who suspects that a child under age 18 has been abused or neglected must report that suspicion immediately to DCYF (Division of Children, Youth and Families of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services). (New Hampshire RSA 169-C:29-31). *Under RSA 169-C:30, the initial report "shall be made immediately via telephone or otherwise."* To report child abuse or neglect to DCYF, call 24/7 (800) 894-5533 (in-state) or (603) 271-6562.

In cases of current emergency or imminent danger, call 911.

The requirement to report is not dependent on whether there is proof of the abuse or neglect, nor is it dependent upon whether the information suggests the abuse or neglect is continuing or happened in the past. Any doubt regarding whether to report should be resolved in favor of reporting. Failure to report may be subject to criminal prosecution, while a report made in good faith is entitled to both civil and criminal immunity.

The report should contain the following information to the extent that you are possible to provide:

- The name, address, sex, and estimated age of the child and any other children at the home
- The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the adults who are responsible for the child
- The full nature and extent of the child's injuries, maltreatment, or neglect
- Any information about previous injuries, abuse, maltreatment or neglect
- How great a risk you believe this may be to the child
- How you learned of this situation
- Any action that has been taken to treat or assist the child
- Any other information that could be helpful in determining the cause of the injuries
- A written report may be requested by DCYF within 48 hours.