

What should you do when you suspect abuse or neglect?

CALL THE HOTLINE:

1-800-392-3738

Staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Outside Missouri, to report abuse or neglect of a Missouri child, call

(573) 751-3448.

When you call:

HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION:

Children's Division needs specific information to be able to respond to a complaint of abuse or neglect. Be sure you have:

- the name of the child and parent(s)
- the name of the alleged abuser
- where the child can be located
- You will also be asked:
 - Is the child in a life-threatening situation now?
 - How do you know about the abuse/neglect?
 - Did you witness the abuse/neglect?
 - Were there other witnesses and how can they be contacted?

CONSIDER IDENTIFYING YOURSELF:

You don't have to identify yourself when you make a hotline call, however being able to contact you later helps CD workers do a more thorough investigation.

Notice to Mandated Reporters: If you are required to report child abuse or neglect because of your occupation, you may no longer make an anonymous call to the Hotline.

What if you're not sure it's abuse or neglect?

Always err on the side of caution and place a call to the hotline. They have tools to evaluate your concerns.

Our Guiding Principles

PROTECTION – Children have a right to be safe and live free from abuse and neglect.

PERMANENCY – Children are entitled to enduring, nurturing relationships that provide a sense of family, stability and belonging.

PRACTICE - The family is the basic building block of society and is irreplaceable. Building on their strengths, families are empowered to identify and access services that support, preserve and strengthen their functioning.

PARTNERSHIP - Families,

communities and government share the responsibility to create safe, nurturing environments for families to raise their children. Only through working together can better outcomes be achieved.

PREVENTION - Families are supported through proactive, intentional activities that promote positive child development and prevent abuse and neglect.

PROFESSIONALISM – Staff are valued, respected and supported throughout their career and in turn provide excellent service that values, respects and supports families.

Phelps County Children's Division

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Phone: 573-368-2340

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25th Circuit
Children's Division



Our Mission

***To partner
with families,
communities
and government
to protect children
from abuse
and neglect
and
assure safety,
permanency
and well-being for
Missouri's children.***

Services provided by our

Agency include:

- Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline and Central Registry
- Child Abuses and Neglect Investigations and Assessments
- Foster Care
- Family Centered Services
- Adoption Recruitment, Services and Subsidy
- Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children
- Licensing of Resource Homes, Residential Treatment Facilities and Child Placing Agencies
- Older Youth Programs
- Community Outreach
- Early Childhood Education and Prevention

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

HOTLINE: Trained social workers

accept calls alleging abuse or neglect of Missouri children. Using information provided by callers, allegations are sent to the county in which the abuse or neglect allegedly occurred.

INVESTIGATIONS AND

ASSESSMENTS: Investigations

involve collecting evidence to determine if there is a preponderance of evidence that the child has been abused or neglected. Assessments involve working with families to eliminate the concerns that abuse or neglect will occur in the future.

CENTRAL REGISTRY:

If there is a "preponderance of evidence" finding, information will be maintained in the Central Registry and will show up in a background check of the perpetrator.

FOSTER CARE:

Care is provided for children who cannot safely remain in their homes by licensed providers in homes, residential facilities or resource-provider group homes. Every effort is made to place children with relatives or others who know them to ease their transition from their own homes.

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN

(ICPC): This agreement between individual states sets established requirements governing states that ask for, or provide, care to children from other states, assuring their protection.

OLDER YOUTH PROGRAMS:

The division provides services to young

people exiting the foster care system to independence. The services prepare them to live productive and independent lives.

FAMILY-CENTERED SERVICES:

FCS is the family-focused intervention the division uses when working with families to eliminate concerns and prevent future abuse and neglect. A Children's Service Worker meets with the family, in their home, to assist them in identifying their strengths and service needs. The worker and the family then work to develop a family plan for change.

ADOPTION RECRUITMENT,

AND SUBSIDY: The

division works to achieve permanency for children who cannot safely return to their biological families and provides services to adoptive parents. Adoption subsidy is provided to a family adopting a child in the division's custody with special needs to assist in meeting the cost of care, treatment and/or the legal process of adoption.

LICENSING OF PROVIDERS:

The division licenses resource homes, residential treatment facilities and child-placing agencies which serve Missouri's children. Licensure assures that health, safety and care standards are met in the best interests of children.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND PREVENTION:

The division provides or funds services supporting quality child care in Missouri, including Early Head Start, and Educare.

