



Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect

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Your Presenters Are:

Jane Bisbee, DCS Deputy Director of Field Operations, Email: Jane.Bisbee@dcs.in.gov

Wade Hornbacher, General Counsel, DCS, Email: Wade.Hornbacher@dcs.in.gov

Melaina Gant, Education Services Director, DCS, Email: Melaina.Gant@dcs.in.gov



Children thrive in safe, caring, supportive families and communities

Our Mission

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) protects children from child abuse & neglect and works to ensure their financial support.



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Child Welfare

Core Functions:

- Protect and keep children safe from abuse & neglect.
- Receive reports of abuse & neglect.
- Complete assessments on reports.
- Ongoing case management to guide a family through services, placement, permanency and case closure.



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What is Physical Abuse?

Any non-accidental physical injury to a child caused by a parent or caregiver that results in or threatens serious injury.



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What is Neglect?

Parent, guardian or custodian does not supply child with:

- Shelter	- Clothing
- Food	- Medical Care
- Education	- Supervision



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Child Abuse & Neglect

How do you report suspected child abuse or neglect?

Call the Indiana Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline, 24/7.

800.800.5556



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Child Abuse & Neglect

Who should report?

- Indiana is a mandatory reporting state. Any person who has reason to believe a child is being abused or neglected shall make a report
- Medical professionals, teachers & law enforcement officials have a higher duty to report abuse or neglect



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Indiana Code § 31-33-5-1 *et. seq.*

- "An individual" who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect shall make a report. IC 31-33-5-1
- If an individual is required to make a report in the individual's capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility, or agency, the individual shall "immediately" notify the individual in charge of the institution, school, facility, or agency or the designated agent of the individual in charge of the institution, school, facility, or agency. IC 31-33-5-2(a).
- The individual notified shall report or cause a report to be made. IC 31-33-5-2(b)



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Indiana Code § 31-33-5-1 *et. seq.*

- An individual is not relieved of the obligation to report on the individual's own behalf, unless a report has already been made to the best of the individual's belief. IC 31-33-5-3.
- A person who has a duty under this chapter to report that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect shall "immediately" make an oral report to the department and/or the local law enforcement agency. IC 31-33-5-4.



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What is "immediately"

- "immediately" means "in an immediate manner; specifically,
 - a) without intervening agency or cause; directly;
 - b) without delay; at once; instantly."
- Smith v. State, 8 N.E.3d 668, 677 (Ind. 2014) (citing Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition (1968)).



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Failing to report immediately is a crime.

- A person who knowingly fails to make a report required by IC 31-33-5-1 [any individual] commits a Class B misdemeanor. IC 31-33-22-1 (a)
- A person who knowingly fails to make a report required by IC 31-33-5-2 [individual in an institutional setting.] commits a Class B misdemeanor. This penalty is in addition to the penalty imposed by subsection (a). IC 31-33-22-1 (b)



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Muncie Central High School
November 9, 2010

- A sixteen-year-old girl is raped by a fellow student in the bathroom at lunch.
- **Around 12:20**, the girl is brought to the office and speaks to an assistant principal, who immediately notifies the principal.
- **Around 12:40** the principal calls the school nurse, sends the assistant principal to review the security footage, and forces the victim to write a hand written statement of her rape.
- **Between 12:45 and 1:00**, the principal calls the director of secondary education, the assistant superintendent, and HR director



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Muncie Central High School
November 9, 2010

- **Around 1:25**, the principal has the perpetrator brought to the office and the victim is sent to the emergency room.
- **Around 1:40**, the assistant principal reports back the principal after reviewing the tape.
- **Around 1:45**, the perpetrator is sent back to class after being questioned by the principal and athletic director.
- **Around 2:00**, the principal and athletic director search the student lockers.
- **Between 2:30 and 4:30**, principal, HR Director, and others attend interviews for an open position.



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Muncie Central High School
November 9, 2010

- **Around 4:30**, the HR Director calls the DCS Hotline.
- Principal was charged and convicted of failing to immediately report.



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Reporting

Call 800.800.5556. An intake specialist:

- Directs caller immediately to 911 or law enforcement if child is in imminent danger.
- Listens/asks questions using intake guidance tool.
- Captures report information.
- Sends report to local county office to determine next steps



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Reporting

Intake specialists will ask questions about the child's current circumstances, safety, and identifying information:

• Names of children involved	• Ages of children
• Parent, guardian or custodian's name	• Addresses & phone numbers
• Substance abuse issues	• Domestic violence
• Mental health concerns	• Weapons in the home

Always report suspected abuse even if you don't know the answers to all the questions.



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Action

Per Indiana law, certain criteria must be met before a family case manager can be dispatched to a home. If criteria is met, a thorough assessment may be called for:

- Immediately/1 hour (imminent danger)
- Within 24 hours
- Up to 5 days

Calls with similar allegations to an open case are referred for follow-up.



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Outcomes of Assessment

Substantiate

DCS finds enough facts to prove that child abuse or neglect has occurred.

Unsubstantiate

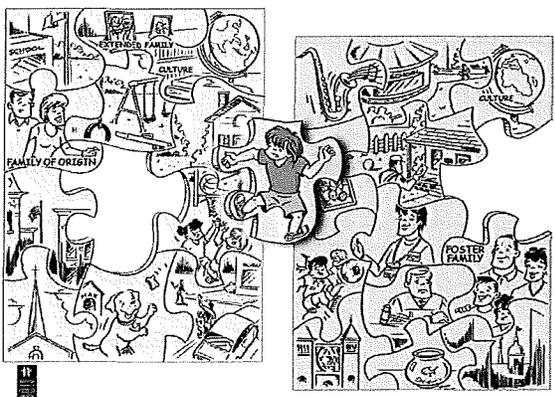
DCS finds no credible evidence that child abuse or neglect has occurred.



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One Child, Two Worlds: Where Do I Fit? How Do I Fit?



How You Can Help

- Offer to help your relatives, friends and neighbors who are under stress and may need some assistance. Perhaps you can babysit, cook, provide transportation, mentor.
- Become a foster parent: 888.631.9510.
- Become an adoptive parent: 888.25ADOPT.
- Purchase a 'Kids First' license plate to help fund prevention services.



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Online Training on Reporting

Don't Wait! Make the Call.



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Don't Wait! Make the Call.
Report Child Abuse and Neglect in Indiana
Public Online Training and Information Course



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Educating Others

Public Online Training and Information Course

- Learn the meaning of child abuse and neglect in Indiana.
- Recognize and report child abuse and neglect in Indiana.
- Learn who is required to report child abuse and neglect in Indiana.
- Learn what happens once DCS receives a report of child abuse or neglect.

Children are never protected by adult silence!



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How Do You Report Child Abuse?

Call the Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

800.800.5556

Any Questions?



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