Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

How You Can Help
- Offer help and support to families you know who are under stress
- Become a foster parent
- Become an adoptive parent
- Purchase a ‘Kids First’ License plate to fund prevention services

Educating Others
A Public Online Training and Information Course is available at reportchildabuse.dcs.in.gov.
CLICK HERE TO LAUNCH
Don’t Wait! Make the Call.
Report Child Abuse and Neglect in Indiana.

Assessments
If a thorough assessment of a report is required it will be assessed:
- IMMEDIATELY IF THERE IS IMMINENT DANGER, or
- WITHIN 24 HOURS FOR REPORTED ABUSE, or
- UP TO 5 DAYS.

Outcomes
- DCS finds child abuse or neglect has occurred
  - SUBSTANTIATED
- DCS finds no credible evidence
  - UNSUBSTANTIATED

Call 800 800 5556
Intake Specialist directs caller to law enforcement if child is in immediate danger
Intake Specialist completes intake guidance tool with report information about identifying information and child safety
Report is sent to local county DCS office to determine next steps

ALWAYS REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT EVEN IF YOU DON’T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS.

Indiana is a mandatory reporting state.
An individual who has reason to believe a child is the victim of abuse or neglect shall report immediately.
Reports are made to the DCS hotline (800.800.5556), or law enforcement.
Law prohibits restriction of any individual’s duty to report. Failing to report immediately (without delay for any reason) is a crime.

Mission
The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) engages with families and collaborates with state, local and community partners to protect children from abuse and neglect and to provide child support services.

Definitions
- Physical Abuse is any non-accidental physical injury to a child by a parent or caregiver.
- Neglect occurs when a parent, guardian or custodian does not provide for the child’s basic needs, medical care, supervision and education.
- Sexual Abuse is usually unwanted sexual behavior by a person upon another or when consent for such behavior cannot be given. Indiana has several statutes that define sexual abuse.

Presenters
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Child Welfare functions:
- Protect and keep children safe from abuse and neglect
- Receive reports of abuse and neglect
- Complete assessments on reports
- Ongoing case management to guide a family to safety and permanency