

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

A Moral and Legal obligation

Suspicious Must Be Reported...

If you suspect abuse:

- **DON'T** try to investigate
- **DON'T** confront the abuser or contact the family. Doing so could hinder the investigation.
- **DO** report your reasonable suspicions

Warning signs of abuse:

Suspect physical abuse when you see...

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes or burns, especially when the child cannot adequately explain their causes
- Burns or bruises in an unusual pattern that may indicate the use of an instrument or a human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body
- Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury
- Aggressive, disruptive and destructive behavior
- Lack of reaction to pain Passive, withdrawn, emotionless behavior
- Fear of going home or seeing parents
- Injuries that appear after the child has not been seen for several days
- Unseasonable clothes that may hide injuries to arms or legs



Suspect neglect when you see...

- Obvious malnourishment
- Lack of personal cleanliness
- Torn and/or dirty clothes
- Obvious fatigue and listlessness
- A child unattended for long periods of time
- Need for glasses, dental care or other medical attention
- Stealing or begging for food
- Frequent absence or tardiness from school

Suspect sexual abuse when you see

- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Frequent expressions of sexual activity between adults and children
- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Extreme fear of being alone with adults, especially if of a particular gender
- Sexually suggestive, inappropriate promiscuous behavior
- Knowledge about sexual relations beyond what is appropriate for the child's age
- Sexual victimization of other children

The preceding indications do not by themselves necessarily indicate abuse.

LISD Guidance and Counseling

Phone: 972.350.4768
Fax: 972.350.9372

Bolin Administration Building
1565 W. Main, Suite 250
Lewisville, TX 75067

Community Resources

Child Protective Services:
1.800.252.5400 (Texas)
1.800.4ACHILD (National)

LISD CHOICES
469.948.8680

Local Police Departments

Denton County Friends of the Family
24 hour Crisis Line
1.940.382.7273 or 1.800.572.4031

Duty to Report

- Anyone who has **cause to believe** that a child has been abused or neglected must report it to the authorities.
- Professionals (including, but not limited to, teachers, doctors, nurses, and day-care employees) are required to make a report if they **suspect** that a child has been abused or neglected.
- A professional may NOT delegate the duty to report to another person, and the report should be made as soon as possible and **must be made within 48 hours of the suspicion.**
- Failure to make a report of suspected child abuse is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, 180 days in jail, or both.

How do I make a report?

1. Call the Texas abuse and neglect hotline at **(800) 252-5400**. OR **Call 911 or your local law enforcement agency if the situation is an emergency.** An emergency is a situation where a child faces an immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in death or serious harm.
2. **Non-emergency** reports of suspected child abuse can be made **online** at www.txabusehotline.org
3. When you make a report, be specific. Tell exactly what happened and when. **Document the date and time of the report and the case number.**
4. Be prepared to provide demographic information such as address, parents' names, siblings, etc. if known.

<http://bit.ly/LISDGuidance>