



Reporting child abuse

Tasmania

Legislation

Who is required to report?

In Tasmania, the *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997* requires members of certain professions to report known or suspected abuse or neglect of children to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Anyone, regardless of whether they are required to do so by law, who reasonably suspects that a child or young person is at risk of being neglected or physically, sexually or emotionally abused has a responsibility to report it to Child Protection Services.

What gets reported?

Any reasonable suspicion of neglect or abuse. You do not have to have proof. If you suspect that a child is in need of protection then you should make a report immediately.

Action

Where do I make the report?

Contact the **Child Protection Services** on **1300 737 639**.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or in a life-threatening situation, contact the Police immediately by dialling **000**.

Useful information

Child-safe environments

Providing strategies for child-safe environments is not a legal requirement but is considered good practice in preventing and minimising opportunities for child abuse within your organisation, including preventing offenders from gaining access to your organisation.

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Child-safe environments include ensuring your staff and volunteers understand their child protection obligations and that staff and volunteers know who to go to should they have suspicions a child may be at risk of harm.

What does establishing a child-safe environment involve?

Understanding the different types of child abuse.

Identifying potential risks and dangers to children (e.g. going away on camps) and managing those risks.

Developing guidelines and processes that clearly outline how to respond to child protection issues.

Choosing your staff with care.

- State your commitment to a child safe environment when advertising vacant positions.
- Seek criminal history checks for employees/volunteers working with children.
- Conduct referee checks (particularly with previous child-related employers, if possible).

Nominating a child protection officer or Member Protection Information Officer who people can trust and go to with concerns.

Ensuring that all staff (paid and volunteers) understand their mandatory/ethical reporting obligations for suspected child abuse.

Ensuring staff have a clear understanding of acceptable/ unacceptable behaviour and know who to contact about concerns they may have.

Talking openly about the importance of ensuring the safety of children within your organisation.

Resources

Where can I get further information or resources?

- [Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [Child Wise – “Choose With Care: 12 Steps to a Child Safe Organisation”](#)