

## CATEGORIES OF ABUSE

- Physical abuse: Could be bruises, scars, fractures, burns bites, etc.
- Sexual abuse: Sexually molesting or assaulting a child or allowing a child to be sexually molested or assaulted; encouraging, inducing or forcing a child to be used for sexual gratification of another person; participating or assisting in the commercial sexual exploitation of a child.
- Emotional abuse: It may take the form of failure to meet a child's need for affection, attention, stimulation, or constant verbal abuse, rejection, threats of violence or attempts to frighten the child.
- Deliberate neglect: Continuous failure to protect a child from exposure to any danger, cold, starvation, substance abuse, not carry out important aspects of care, etc.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REPORT HAS BEEN FILED?

A designated child protection social worker will visit the child and family to assess whether the child is in need of care and protection. If the children's court is satisfied that it is in the best interest of the child not to be removed from his or her home or place where he or she resides, however the removal of the alleged offender from such home or place would secure the safety and well-being of the child.

- The presiding officer can rule that the alleged offender leave the home or place where the child resides and refrain from entering such home or place or having contact with the child until the court hearing.
- The court may order that the child could be visited by the alleged offender upon such conditions as would ensure the best interest of the child.

- The alleged offender will be ordered to contribute towards the maintenance of the family.
- A social worker can request that a police official must request the alleged offender to appear before a presiding officer, on a set date.

## WHEN REPORTING A CASE, ARE CHILDREN ALWAYS REMOVED FROM THE FAMILY?

No, only when the child's life is in danger. The principle of keeping a child within his/her family as long as possible is valued. When taking such a decision, the best interest of the child would be paramount. Families and children are part of any decision-making in their situation.

## ARE PARENTAL RIGHTS AFFECTED BY THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER?

No, registration in itself does not affect a parent's or care-giver(s) legal responsibility to the child. It is only affected if legal action has to be taken (for example: removal of the child), or when the children's court deems it proper to issue an order to assist the family and the child.

**Social Development: 0800 60 10 11**

**Police Emergency Line: 10 111**

**Child Line: 0800 05 55 55**

Chief Directorate Communication  
Department of Social  
Development  
Private Bag x901  
PRETORIA  
0001

Tel: (012) 312 7731/7654  
Fax: (012) 312 7988/7943  
Toll free no. 0800 60 10 11  
[www.dsd.gov.za](http://www.dsd.gov.za)  
Toll-free no. 0800 60 10 11

## Child Protection Register



*Building a Caring Society. Together.*



**social development**

Department:  
Social Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



### WHAT IS THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER?

The National Child Protection Register records vulnerable children, under the age of 18 years, who are in need of care and protection. The register is maintained by a social worker within a local Department of Social Development and designated child protection organizations. Information contained in the Register is strictly confidential and can only be shared with those who form part of the Child Protection team (for example: a teacher / a nurse / a care giver / a police official / a magistrate, etc)

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REGISTER?

According to Children's Act (No. 38 of 2005), the purpose of the register is as follows:

- To have a record of abuse or deliberate neglect inflicted on specific children.
- To have a record of the circumstances surrounding the abuse or deliberate neglect inflicted on the children.
- To use the information in the Register in order to protect these children from further abuse or neglect.
- To monitor cases and services to such children.
- To share information between professionals that are part of the child protection team.
- To determine patterns and trends of abuse or deliberate neglect of children
- To use the information in the Register for planning and budgetary purposes to prevent the abuse and deliberate neglect of children and protect children on a national, provincial and municipal level.

### WHO SHOULD REPORT?

According to the Children's Act (No. 38 of 2005) the following professional persons are obliged to report child abuse cases. Such persons are listed under section 110(1) as follows:

"Any correctional official, dentist, homeopath, immigration official, labour inspector, legal practitioner, medical practitioner, midwife, minister of religion, nurse, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, psychologist, religious leader, social service professional, social worker, speech therapist, teacher, traditional health practitioner, traditional leader or member of staff or volunteer worker at a partial care facility, drop-in centre or child and youth care centre who on reasonable grounds concludes that a child has been abused in a manner causing physical injury, sexually abused or deliberately neglected, must report that conclusion in the prescribed form to a designated child protection organization, the provincial department of social development or a police official".

### IF I AM NOT A PROFESSIONAL PERSON?

Any person (member of society, neighbour, concerned citizen) who on reasonable grounds believes that a child is in need of care and protection may report that belief to the provincial department of social development, child protection organization or a police official.

- Such a person must substantiate that conclusion or belief to the provincial department of social development, a designated child protection organization or police official.
- The person who makes a report in good faith is not liable to civil action on the basis of the report.
- The identity of the informant will be treated as confidential. You only need to be familiar with the following:

- Identifying particulars of the child.
- Identifying particulars of the biological parents / care-givers.
- Address of where the child currently lives and, if away from parents, the address of the parents.
- Dates and type of incidents.
- Details of circumstances giving rise to the abuse.
- Any contact details of other persons who could confirm the alleged abuse.
- Your contact details on the file, should the designated social worker have to follow-up certain details with you, is important.

### WHERE TO REPORT?

The report can be made at the nearest social work office, the police or designated child protection organization, where the child resides.

### CARE AND PROTECTION/ SERVICES RENDERED

- The police will ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child concerned if the child's safety is at risk.
- The provincial department of social development or designated child protection organization may take measures to assist the child as follows:
  - Risk assessment and investigations
  - Counseling
  - Mediation
  - Prevention and early intervention services
  - Family reconstruction and rehabilitation
  - Behaviour modification
  - Problem solving and referral to another suitably qualified person or organization.
  - Support during a criminal procedure trial.
  - Support during a children's court inquiry.