

# CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

## CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

The Boy Scouts requires immediate notification of the Scout Executive whenever information about possible child abuse in the Boy Scout program is uncovered. The current policy for after-hours notifications is to wait until the next business day and call the Scout Service Center in Rochester, New York at 585-244-4210.

The Scout Executive will ensure that all state reporting requirements have been met and will also take measures to protect the youth in the Scouting movement.

Include the following information in your report: (Please give as much detail as you can.)

Name of suspected victim _____	Date(s) of the incident _____
_____	
Address of suspected victim _____	Age of victim _____
_____	
Suspected victim's unit number _____	Suspected victim's telephone # _____
_____	
Name of alleged abuser _____	Address of alleged abuser _____
_____	
Description of event or suspected abuse	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
Optional:	
Name of person reporting _____	Telephone # _____
_____	

Reports of child abuse and neglect can be made to Child Protective Services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If an immediate report is to be made due to extreme urgency, contact the Monroe County Child Abuse Reporting Hotline at 585-461-5690, or the New York State Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register at 1-800-342-3720. The council should be contacted by leaving a message on the council service center answering machine. The "Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Form" should be completed and submitted to the council.

## REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN MONROE COUNTY, NY.

The law requires certain people to report suspected child abuse or neglect whenever they have a reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected. Those people include medical providers, day care and foster care providers, educators, law enforcement professionals, and social work/mental health professionals (New York State Social Services Law, Section 413).

The law also says that any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect may report this information immediately to Child Protective Services (New York State Social Services Law, Section 414).

Child Protective Services has the authority and responsibility to investigate reports of suspected child abuse or neglect whenever the person who allegedly causes the abuse or neglect has legal responsibility for the child. If the alleged abuser does not have legal responsibility for the child, Child Protective Services will report the situation to a law enforcement agency and encourage the reporter to do the same.

Upon the registration of a report of child abuse or neglect with Child Protective Services, a caseworker shall investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

### **IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY**

Any person who acts in good faith in the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect is immune from criminal or civil liability as a result of such action. Good faith is presumed as long as the person is “acting in the discharge of their duties and within the scope of their employment” and their actions were not due to “willful misconduct or gross negligence” (New York State Social Services Law, Section 419).

### **PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT**

Any person who is required by law to report a suspected child abuse and neglect and who willfully fails to do so is guilty of a class A misdemeanor (New York State Social Services Law, Section 420).