

REPORT UP to your camp director  
REPORT OUT to local authorities

YOUR CAMP'S DESIGNEE  
FOR REPORTING ABUSE:

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Baltimore Child Abuse Center

## A CAMP COUNSELOR'S GUIDE TO REPORTING ABUSE

### HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

If you suspect child abuse, contact your local child protective services or police as soon as possible. These agencies along with your local Child Advocacy Center and prosecutor investigate the report to determine if the allegations can be substantiated as child abuse or neglect. Regardless of outcome, together they will also arrange for services to prevent further maltreatment of the child and to preserve the family unit.

### TO REPORT ABUSE CALL...

**Police: 911 or your local child welfare agency**

For a list of child welfare agencies by state and their contact information please visit:  
<http://www.childhelp.org/hotline>



Baltimore Child Abuse Center  
2300 North Charles Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21218

410.396.6147  
[www.bcaci.org](http://www.bcaci.org)

 [www.twitter.com/childabusecentr](https://www.twitter.com/childabusecentr)  
 [www.facebook.com/4BCAC](https://www.facebook.com/4BCAC)



Intervention



Treatment



Education



Advocacy

# YOU ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT ABUSE

## WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse and neglect includes any act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes physical injury, puts a child's health or welfare at a substantial risk of harm, an act of sexual molestation or exploitation, substantial impairment of a child's psychological ability to function, or failure to give proper care and attention to a child to where the child's welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of harm. Children are anyone under the age of 18. At camp, the term "caregiver" extends to anyone that is paid to work at the camp.

## WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE?

Sexual abuse is any act of sexual molestation or exploitation of a child committed by an adult or an older child that has permanent, temporary, or supervisory responsibilities of that child, or by any household or family member. Sexual abuse includes actual or attempted rape, incest, oral sex, intercourse, sodomy, fondling, and sex trafficking, as well as non-touching behaviors such as sexting, use of sexually explicit language, exposure to pornography, and voyeurism. Children are under the age of 18 and consent is not a defense.

## IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING

You are a mandated reporter. It is your responsibility to **REPORT UP** to the camp director and **REPORT OUT** to the proper legal authorities about any allegation of child abuse or maltreatment. Failure to report an allegation of abuse may result in imprisonment or a fine.

**You are camp's eyes and ears.** If you see another staff member or camper acting inappropriately towards a camper do not just minimize it, ignore it, and let it go. You must report it to your supervisor. The same goes for a child who confides in you that they have a secret, and that secret is about them being a victim of abuse. They will still look up to you and respect you if you report up to camp supervisors and out to the proper authorities.



## WHAT YOU NEED WHEN YOU REPORT ABUSE

- Child's name, age, and home address
- Name and home address of child's parent or caregiver
- Current location of child
- Nature of allegations



Generally, any person who makes a report of suspected abuse or neglect or participates in an investigation is immune from civil liability and criminal penalty. Information contained in reports made and investigations are kept confidential. Names of reporters may only be revealed by court order. Professionals may give permission for identity to be revealed. Information may be shared with multidisciplinary case consultation teams.

Interference with the making of a report of abuse or neglect or failure to report can result in criminal or civil penalties.

## YOUR ACTIONS

For the summer, you are responsible for the health and wellbeing of all children at camp at all times. By working with children you assume risk from the moment you walk through the camp gates. You can mitigate that risk by making sure that all of your interactions with children are:

- Appropriate** – they are part of your normal job description
- Observable** – you are in a space where anyone can see you
- Interruptible** – anyone could walk up to you at any point in time

## WHEN A CHILD TELLS YOU ABOUT OR YOU WITNESS PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE:

- Remain Calm
- Thank them for telling you
- Believe and praise their bravery
- Listen and let them talk
- Don't investigate. Don't ask for more detail than a child is ready to give
- Tell them that you will help
- Do not make promises

## WHY MAKE A REPORT:

- It's your duty as a mandated reporter by law
- Even if you are unsure about whether or not abuse took place, you should still report what you saw or what the child has told you. It is always better to make a report and let the authorities investigate than not.
- **You may be that child's only chance!**

*The information contained herein is a guide to assist the reporting of child abuse and neglect. You should consult your agency and attorney if you have specific questions and to see your agency policy.*