

To make a Child  
Protection Report:  
1 (800) 663-9122

If the Child or Youth  
is in Immediate  
Danger: 9-1-1

If You are a Child  
or Youth and  
Would Like to Talk  
to Someone:  
310-1234

# Duty to Report

REPORTING CONCERNS ABOUT  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH



TO MAKE A CHILD  
PROTECTION REPORT:

1 (800) 663-9122

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child\\_protection/pdf/handbook\\_action\\_child\\_abuse.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/pdf/handbook_action_child_abuse.pdf)

CMIC LBEC



# Protecting Children and Youth Is Everyone's Responsibility



## WHO SHOULD REPORT?

In BC anyone who has reason to believe that a child or youth under 19 has been or is likely to be abused or neglected and that the parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child or youth, **must** report the suspected abuse or neglect to the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Everyone in the community should be alert to signs of abuse or neglect in children and youth. Their safety, welfare and well-being are a community responsibility.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child\\_protection/pdf/handbook\\_action\\_child\\_abuse.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/pdf/handbook_action_child_abuse.pdf)

## WHEN MUST A REPORT BE MADE

A report to the Ministry of Children and Family Development **must** be made when you have reason to believe that a child or youth:

- » Has been, or is likely to be, physically harmed, sexually abused or sexually exploited by a parent or another person and the parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child or youth;
- » Has been or is likely to be physically harmed because of neglect by the child or youth's parent;
- » Is emotionally harmed by the parent's conduct;
- » Is or has been absent from home in circumstances that endanger the child or youth's safety or well-being;
- » Has been abandoned and adequate provisions have not been made for the child or youth's care;
- » Is living in a situation where there is domestic violence by or towards a person with whom the child or youth resides;
- » Is likely to have seriously impaired development by a treatable condition and the child or youth's parent refuses to provide consent to treatment;
- » Has a parent that is unable or unwilling to care for the child or youth and has not made adequate provisions for the child or youth's care; or
- » Has a parent that is no longer alive and adequate provisions have not been made for the child or youth's care.

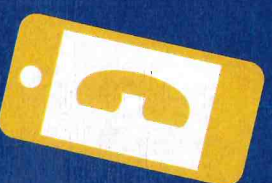
## WHAT DOES "REASON TO BELIEVE" MEAN?

"Reason to believe" simply means that, based on what you have seen or information you have received, you believe a child or youth has been or is likely to be at risk. You do not need to be certain. It is the child protection worker's job to determine whether or abuse or neglect has occurred or is likely to occur.

## FAILURE TO REPORT

Failing to promptly report suspected abuse or neglect to the Ministry of Children and Family Development is a serious offence under the Child, Family and Community Service Act and carries a maximum penalty of a \$10,000 fine, six months in jail, or both.

No action for damages may be brought against you for reporting information under the Child, Family and Community Service Act unless you knowingly report false information, or the report was not made in good faith.



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