

# How to Make a Child Abuse Report

**You can make a report of child abuse by calling, writing, or visiting the Stokes County Department of Social Services. The phone number is 336-593-2861. The after hours number is 1-800-672-2851. The address is Stokes County DSS, P.O. Box 30, Danbury, NC 27016. A social worker will listen to you and take down all the information you give. Reports are accepted 24 hours a day.**

It is helpful if you can share the following information:

- the name, address, and age of the child
- the name and address of the child's parent, guardian, or caretaker
- the child's condition, including the nature and extent of the injury
- any information regarding the presence of weapons, alcohol/drug abuse, or other factors affecting the social worker's safety are important

## **Important**

You do not need to prove that abuse has taken place; you only need reasonable grounds for suspicion.

You do not have to give your name.

You do not need permission from parents or caregivers to make a report and you do not need to tell them you are reporting.

You do not need permission from your workplace to make a report, but there may be guidelines to help you.

## **What is Child Maltreatment?**

Child maltreatment can be defined as a non-accidental injury or pattern of injuries to a child. Child abuse includes non-accidental:

- **Physical Abuse** - Examples of physical abuse include, but are not limited to: beating, harmful restraint, use of a weapon or instrument, or actions that result in or could result in serious physical injury.
- **Sexual Abuse** - Sexual abuse is any sexual behavior imposed on a juvenile. This involves a range of activities, including fondling the genital area, masturbation, oral sex, or vaginal or anal penetration by a finger, penis or other object. It includes exhibitionism, child pornography, and suggestive behaviors or comments.
- **Emotional Abuse** - Emotional abuse is expressing attitudes or behaviors toward a child that create serious emotional or psychological damage.
- **Neglect** - Child neglect can be defined as any serious disregard for a juvenile's supervision, care, or discipline.