

Responding to Reports of Child Abuse

SSABER

- S Stay Calm** “I’m happy to help you.”
- S Support** “I’m sorry this happened to you.”
- A Affirm** “You did the right thing by telling me.”
- B Believe** “It’s not your fault, I believe you.”
- E Empower** “You have the right to be safe.”
- R Report** “We need to tell others about this to make sure you’re safe.”

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Places for Support

Childline

www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis OR 1-800-932-0313

**Bucks County Children and Youth
Social Services Agency**
215-348-6900

Network of Victim Assistance

www.novabucks.org OR 1-800-675-6900

Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center
www.buckscac.org OR 267-927-0639



Bucks County
Children’s Advocacy
Center



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Guidelines for Mandated Reporters

1. As a mandated reporter, you are required to report a suspicion of abuse immediately. You do not need to prove that child abuse occurred. You only need to gather minimal facts.
2. Gather minimal information to file the report to Childline. If you can, please obtain information from a person other than the victim.
3. Minimal Facts include the: name of the child, parent, and the alleged offender, when and where it happened and what is the suspicion. Please note you do not need to have all of this information to make a report.
4. Recommended minimal facts questions include:
 - **What** happened?
 - **When** did it happen?
 - **Where** did the alleged abuse happen?
 - **Who** did this?
 - Tell me about that
 - Tell me what happened

Avoid why-type questions

Avoid detailed questions

Avoid leading questions

5. If you have a suspicion of child abuse or neglect, it is important to determine whether the child needs medical care. Please seek immediate medical attention if:
 - The child has an injury, is bleeding or seems unwell (vomiting, disoriented, etc.)
 - There is a psychological emergency (suicidal, etc.)
 - The child reports sexual abuse occurred within 5 days.
 - If you are unsure, bring the child to emergency department.

6. Call Childline to report the abuse immediately at 1-800-932-0313 or www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis

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