

# Intake Assessment (receipt of report) and related information

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When someone makes a report to Child Protective Services, the Child Protective Services Social Worker interviews the reporter to determine if a child is abused or neglected or likely to be abused or neglected as defined by West Virginia State Statute. If the report doesn't suggest that a child is abused or neglected or likely to be abused or neglected, the report is screened out and the family is often referred to other resources which can assist them. If the report is accepted it is assigned to a Child Protective Services Social Worker who completes a Family Functioning Assessment.

## **Who is mandated by law to Report?**

Certain persons whose occupation brings them into contact with children on a regular basis are mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Those who are required to report include;

- medical, dental or mental health professionals
- Christian Science practitioners
- religious healers
- school teachers or other school personnel
- social service workers
- child care or foster care workers
- emergency medical services personnel
- peace officers or law-enforcement officials
- members of the clergy
- circuit court judges, family court judges or magistrates
- humane officers

## **Why Should I Report if I am not required by law?**

- The purpose of reporting is to identify suspected abused and neglected children as soon as possible so that they may be protected from further harm. Child Protective Services cannot protect children until a report is made.

## **Am I Protected if I Report?**

West Virginia law provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for persons reporting in good faith (WV Code 49-6A-6)

## **How Do I Report?**

When you suspect that a child is being abused you should report your concerns to the Child Protective Services (CPS) unit in the county office of the Department of Health and Human Resources where you live. Locate DHHR County Offices [\(Link Here\)](#)

Reports can also be made to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (1-800-352-6513 ) 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

