

# REPORTING



## Abuse & Neglect Of Children

### WABASHA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

411 Hiawatha Drive East  
Wabasha, MN 55981

*A safe community where children can live and grow among caring adults does not just happen. It is created by individuals who are committed and determined to help shape that safe community. Minnesota policy is protection of children whose health or welfare may be jeopardized through child maltreatment.*

### Who Should Report?

Minnesota law requires those who work with children to make a child protection report if they know of or have reason to believe a child:

1. Is being neglected or abused.
2. Has been neglected or abused within the preceding three years.



### Mandated Reporters Include:

- Child care: babysitters; child care center staff; home child care providers.
- Clergy
- Probation and correctional services.
- Education: school administrators; support staff; teachers; assistants.
- Guardians ad Litem
- Health care professionals: dental professionals; hospital staff; medical professionals and personnel.
- Law Enforcement
- Mental health professionals: psychiatrists; psychologists; therapists; counselors.
- Social services: foster parents; group home staff; social workers; caseworkers.

### What to Report?

#### Physical Abuse (Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 2

(k)): Any physical injury or threat of harm inflicted by a caregiver on a child other than accidental means. Physical abuse does not include reasonable and moderate physical discipline of a child administered by a parent or guardian that does not result in injury.

#### Sexual Abuse (Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 2

(n)): Subjection of a child to a criminal sexual act or threatened act by a person responsible for the child's care, lives in the household, or is in a position of authority.

#### Neglect (Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 2 (g)):

Failure to supply the necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical or mental health care, or appropriate supervision. Educational neglect/truancy and prenatal exposure to controlled substances are also included.

#### Substantial Child Endangerment (Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 2 (o)):

Person responsible for a child's care by act or omission commits or attempts to commit an act against a child under their care that constitutes any of the following:

- Egregious harm.
- Child abandonment.
- Malicious punishment.

#### Mental Injury (Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 2

(f)): Substantial and observable injury to a child's psychological capacity or emotional stability which is either inflicted or caused by neglectful behavior by the personal responsible for the child's care.

#### Threatened Injury (Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 2

(p)): Statement, overt act, condition, or status that represents a substantial risk of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or mental injury. Includes domestic violence occurring where a child is involved in, witness to, or otherwise situated in a location that puts them at risk during incidents.



## What will be asked?

- Your name and contact information.
- Name, address, DOB/age, and other identifying information regarding the alleged victim, siblings, alleged offender, other household members, or any additional witnesses.
- Specific description of allegations and any additional concerns that the reporter has regarding the victim/victim's family.
- Description of a child's injuries or present conditions, including the date in which the alleged maltreatment occurred.
- Custodial status.
- Presence of domestic violence, criminal activity, weapons, or other dangerous activities in the home.
- Whether or not the child is of American Indian descent.



*While it is recognized that most parents want to keep their children safe, sometimes circumstances or conditions interfere with their ability to do so.*

## Where to Report?

During the week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.:

**Email:** [SSCPintake@co.wabasha.mn.us](mailto:SSCPintake@co.wabasha.mn.us)

**Fax:** (651)565-3084

**Phone:** (651)565-3351

**Walk-In:** 411 Hiawatha Drive East  
Wabasha, MN 55981

After-Hours, Weekends, and/or Holidays:

**Email:** [SSCPintake@co.wabasha.mn.us](mailto:SSCPintake@co.wabasha.mn.us)

**Phone:** Wabasha County Sheriff's  
Department  
(651)565-3361



*If you are unsure whether to make a report, call Wabasha County Social Services, and we will consult with you about the concern.*

## When to Report?

Verbal reports must be made immediately (no longer than 24 hours). A written report must be submitted within 72 hours (weekends and holidays are excluded).

If you know or suspect that a child is in immediate danger or a child is abandoned, contact your local law enforcement agency right away.

Wabasha County Sheriff's Department:  
(651)565-3361.

## The Reporting Process:

The reporter's name is kept confidential. It is accessible only if the reporter consents, by court order, or by court procedure. If you are required to report known or suspected abuse or neglect and fail to do so, you are guilty of a misdemeanor. If a child protection report results in a court hearing, you may be asked to testify.

*If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, you cannot shift the responsibility of reporting to a supervisor, or to someone else in the office, school, clinic or licensed facility. You alone are required to make the report to the responsible agency.*

## What Happens Next?

Reports made to child welfare agencies are first screened to determine whether a report meets the criteria to be assigned for a child protection response. If maltreatment occurred in a family and meets the statutory definition, it is assigned for an Investigative response or a Family Assessment response.

## Learning the Outcome:

A mandated reporter can find out if a report has been accepted for investigation and will receive a summary of a disposition of the report, unless such a release of information would be detrimental to the best interests of a child.