

# Mandatory Reporters

**855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437)**

This number is for anyone in the state to call and report child abuse or neglect.

*One number, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to speak to a trained child welfare worker to report abuse and neglect  
or  
you can call the local police.*

**The Louisiana Children's Code specifies that any person who is required to report abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse of a child under age 18 is to report information to the Department of Child and Family Services or the local police when that person has cause to believe a child's physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect. Teachers and childcare providers are mandatory reporters. Willful and knowing failure to report can result in a \$500.00 fine or imprisonment for six (6) months, or both. It must be followed up with a written report within five (5) days.**

If a child reports abuse and it is believable, it has to be reported. Any person who makes a report in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability under the law.

The responsibility is to report immediately if there is cause to believe a child's physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect.

The person who first learns of the abuse or neglect has to be the one to make the report.

Reporting suspected abuse or neglect is a request for an investigation. It is not an accusation.