



Reporting child abuse

Australian Capital Territory

Legislation

Who is legislatively required to implement child-safe environments?

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or in a life-threatening situation, contact the Police immediately by dialling 000.

There are a number of professions who are mandated to report suspicions of child abuse (e.g. teachers, doctors – these individuals are known as mandatory reporters). For a complete list go to: [DHCS – Keeping Children and Young People Safe](#).

Are there penalties involved for failing to report?

Yes. People who fail to meet their mandated notifier obligations can be fined or sent to jail.

It is good practice to report any concerns relating to the safety of children.

Action

What gets reported?

Any reasonable suspicion of neglect or abuse. You don't have to have proof. If you suspect that a child is in need of protection then you should make a report.

Where to make a report?

Contact the [Care and Protection Services Unit](#) within the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services on one of the following numbers:

- Mandated Reporters – 1300 556 728
Fax: 6205 0641 or email Child Protection Reports to childprotection@act.gov.au
- General Public Contact Number – 1300 556 729
- After Hours Crisis Services – 1300 556 729

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- Website – [Care and Protection Services - Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services](#)

Useful information

Anyone who has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a child or young person is being neglected or abused should report it.

Although people working in sporting or recreation organisations are not mandatory reporters, there may be some individuals who do have this responsibility as a result of their employment with other organisations (e.g. teachers who coach the local team). For more information go to [Care and Protection Services – Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services](#).

Resources

- [DHCS – Keeping Children and Young People Safe](#)
- [Australian Sports Commission](#)