

Reporting Child Maltreatment During COVID-19 Crisis

North Carolina's children need essential workers and volunteers to help keep them safe during the COVID-19 Crisis.

Your Role in Protecting Children from Abuse & Neglect

North Carolina law requires all adults to report suspected child maltreatment. Times of crisis puts families under great stress and can lead to significant increases in the risk of child maltreatment. But caring adults can help protect children from the increased risk of child maltreatment.

Stay-at-Home Orders Creates Barriers to Reporting Child Maltreatment

With stay-at-home orders in place, children may not have much interaction with any adults outside their home. That's why essential workers or volunteers who may interact with children or families in any capacity are needed now more than ever to look out for the health and well-being of North Carolina's children.

Making a Report is Asking for Help and Services

You do not need proof that maltreatment has occurred; you only need reasonable cause to suspect maltreatment. You do not need anyone's permission to file a report. By making a report, you are asking for a professional to help a child and their family so they all can thrive.

How to Make a Report

To make a referral, call the local county [Department of Social Services](#) where the child lives. Share any information you have about the child – name, age, address and parent or caregiver name – and what makes you suspect maltreatment

Free, Online Training for Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect

Take Prevent Child Abuse NC's free web-based [Recognizing and Responding to Suspicions of Child Maltreatment](#) training.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

Warning Signs

Signs of possible physical abuse: unexplained bruises, burns or injuries in various stages of healing; fear of parent or caregiver; unusual wariness of physical contact, among others.

Signs of possible neglect: abandonment by parent or caregiver; unattended medical needs; consistent hunger, inappropriate dress or poor hygiene; lice or distended stomach; fatigue, among others.

Signs of possible sexual abuse: exhibiting sexual behavior or knowledge of sex that is not appropriate for the child's age; speech loss or thumb-sucking; signs of depression or aggressive behavior, among others.

Signs of possible emotional abuse: speech disorders or delayed physical and emotional development; habit disorders like sucking or rocking; anti-social or destructive attitude; aggressive, delinquent or attention seeking behavior; depression, among others.

Remember, it is your job as an adult to help protect children – especially now!