

LITTLE LOG CABIN MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE

State law requires that every employee of a licensed day care or preschool facility, who in the course of employment reasonably believes a child, has suffered sexual abuse, physical abuse, or denial of critical care; shall immediately notify the Department of Social Services.

Our policy concerning this contains the following:

- a. A staff member shall report the suspected or alleged child abuse or neglect to child protective services or to a local law enforcement agency as prescribed by the state law. This is to be done by any means available within 24 hours of the required report. Written documentation shall also be sent to the Department of Child Protective Services, and any local law enforcement agencies previously notified within 3 days of the initial report, and maintain written documentation of a child abuse or neglect report on facility premises for 12 months from the date of the report.
- b. A staff member shall report the suspected or alleged child abuse by a staff member to the Department and to a local law enforcement agency as prescribed by state law. A Staff member shall also send written documentation to the Department and to any law enforcement agency previously notified within 3 days of the initial report, and maintain written documentation of a child abuse report on the facility premises for 12 months from the date of the report.

The oral and written reports shall contain the following information, or as much thereof as the person making the report is able to furnish:

- a. The names and home address of the child, phone number, date, and year.
- b. The child's explanation as to what happened.
- c. The nature and extent of the child's injuries, what the marks look like and color of bruises.
- d. The date Child Protective Services was called, name of reporter, case worker and specialist.
- e. Any other information or comments in which the person making the report believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injury.
- f. If the police were called.

Legal sanctions for failure to report are as follows:

1. Any mandatory reporter who knowingly and willfully fails to report a suspected case of child abuse is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.
2. Any mandatory reporter who knowingly fails to report is civilly liable for the damages proximately caused by such failure.

Any mandatory reporter who in good faith makes a report of child abuse or participates in the investigation of a child abuse has immunity from any liability, civil, or criminal. Records and/or information pertaining to the abuse may be released to the child abuse investigator without releases required in other situations.

To report child abuse anytime, day or night, call:

Virginia Department of Social Services
(800) 552-7096