Reporting Child Abuse in New Jersey

In New Jersey, anyone with reasonable cause to believe a child is being abused should immediately call the Child Abuse Hotline. If the child is in immediate danger, call 911 as well as **1-877 NJ ABUSE.** You can call anonymously and do not need proof to report an allegation of child abuse. The Hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

What information will I be asked to provide to the hotline screener?

Whenever possible, a caller should provide all of the following information:

- **Who:** The child and parent/caregiver's name, age and address and the name of the alleged abuser and that person's relationship to the child.
- **What:** Type and frequency of alleged abuse/neglect, current or previous injuries to the child and what caused you to become concerned.
- **When:** When the alleged abuse/neglect occurred and when you learned of it.
- **Where:** Where the incident occurred, where the child is now and whether the alleged abuser has access to the child.
- **How:** How urgent the need is for intervention and whether there is a likelihood of imminent danger for the child.

Do callers have immunity from civil or criminal liability?

Any person who, in good faith, makes a report of child abuse or neglect or testifies in a child abuse hearing resulting from such a report is immune from any criminal or civil liability as a result of such action. All calls to the hotline can remain **ANONYMOUS.**

Is it against the laws of New Jersey to fail to report suspected abuse/neglect?

Any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect according to the law or to comply with the provisions of the law is a disorderly person.

What happens after I make the call?

When a report indicates that a child may be at risk, an investigator from the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) will promptly investigate the allegations of child abuse and neglect within 24 hours of receipt of the report.

If I report abuse, will DCP&P call me and tell me what happened?

No, probably not as DCP&P investigations are confidential. But please be assured that all allegations of abuse and neglect will be promptly investigated. Your call is very important and greatly appreciated.

All reports of child abuse and neglect, including those occurring in institutional settings such as child care centers, schools, foster homes and residential treatment centers, must be reported to the Child Abuse Hotline.

1-877 NJ ABUSE

(1-877-652-2873)

TTY 1-800-835-5510

NJ Department of Children and Families