



HOW TO...

Fulfill Your Obligations as a Mandatory Reporter of Child Abuse and Neglect

Why am I required to report child abuse and neglect (child maltreatment)?

- ◆ Executive Order 54, issued by the Governor, makes all UW Extension employees **and volunteers** mandated reporters.
- ◆ All 4-H volunteers **MUST** report if they observe or hear about suspected or threatened child maltreatment in the course of their volunteer duties.

What is child maltreatment?

- ◆ Physical abuse is physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means.
- ◆ Sexual abuse is sexual intercourse or touching of a child, sexual exploitation, forced viewing or listening to sexual activity.
- ◆ Emotional abuse is harm to a child's psychological or intellectual functioning.
- ◆ Neglect is the lack of the necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care, or shelter, which seriously endangers the physical health of the child.
- ◆ It is child abuse to manufacture methamphetamines with a child present, in a child's home or under any circumstances that the manufacture would be noticed by a child.

Who do I call to make a report?

- ◆ If the child is in immediate danger, call 911.
- ◆ Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Rock County Child Protective Services, 608-757-5401
- ◆ Evenings and weekends: Rock County Sheriff's Department, 608-757-8000 or local law enforcement; ask to speak to the child protective services after hours worker.

What do I report?

- ◆ Describe the nature of the suspected or threatened child maltreatment.
- ◆ Include information that has been disclosed by the child, the person from whom you learned about the maltreatment and/or observed by you.
- ◆ Give the name, address and phone number of the child and his/her parents or caregiver.
- ◆ Even if you don't have all the information, call and report what you do know.

THE BOTTOM LINE

ALL 4-H volunteers are required to report suspected or threatened child maltreatment.

When you report, give as much information as you can.

If you suspect or learn about something, make the call!

Rock County 4-H Club Chairperson Tip Sheet #11

Adapted January, 2014 by Donna J. Duerst from "Fulfilling Your Obligations as a Mandatory Reporter of Child Abuse and Neglect" University of Wisconsin-Extension brochure