

# Duty To Report

The duty to report applies to anyone, the general public or community workers, who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child may be in need of protection.

The need of protection can be from physical harm, emotional harm, neglect or abandonment, sexual harm or exploitation.

When an employee or worker suspects a child may be in need of protection, they are obligated to report to the local child welfare agency, local police services, or any social services workers.

Professionals are accountable for reporting any type of child abuse. Professionals who fail to report abuse can be charged, and if convicted, can be fined. It is important for all community workers to know that they are responsible for reporting any type of child abuse.

Reporting must be done even if it involves confidentiality. Reporting is not difficult and the person reporting is protected from any kind of legal action if the report is not made out of malice or spite.

Any effort to support and assist parents who may be at risk of abusing are encouraged. It is important to reach out to troubled families and attempt to prevent family violence before it happens.

## **Duty To Report:**

- it doesn't matter if you believe someone else is going to report the situation, you can still report it
- reporting abuse can save a child's life
- always act in the best interests of a child
- making a decision to report should be based on child behaviours or other indicators
- the legal duty to report normally overrides any confidentiality rule
- reporting abuse ensures safety and well being of children
- do not put yourself at danger by trying to contact or confront the abuser
- it is important to keep children safe and free from harm
- ***for more information contact your local child welfare agency or police service***