

Per ORC 2121.421: “No person described in division (A)(1)(b) of this section who is acting in an official or professional capacity and knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect based on facts that would cause a reasonable person in a similar position to suspect, that a child under eighteen years of age, or a person, under twenty-one years of age with a developmental disability or physical impairment, has suffered or faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the child shall fail to immediately report that knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect to the entity or persons specified in this division.”

- “The person making the report shall make it to the public children’s services agency or a municipal or county peace officer in the county in which the child resides or in which the abuse or neglect is occurring or has occurred.”

Per ORC 2151.421, all health care professionals are mandated to report suspicions for child abuse and neglect, to include commercial sex and labor trafficking.

## HOW TO REPORT

**Contact the children’s services agency in which the custodial parent resides.**

- If parents have shared parenting, report to county where residential parent lives.
- If children’s services agency is closed after hours, contact that county’s sheriff’s office requesting to speak to on-call children’s services worker.

**Inform phone screener you are a mandated reporter calling to make a new report regarding abuse/neglect.**

**Contact law enforcement jurisdiction where injury/incident reportedly occurred.**

- i.e. Dayton city address provided by patient/family; contact Dayton Police Department regional dispatch (937-333-COPS/2677) to determine if address is in their jurisdiction.

Note: Cases not meeting criteria for being screened in by children’s services may not be opened. **Making reports to children’s services and law enforcement ensures appropriate response.**

## WHAT TO REPORT

**Helpful information to have:** (share what you know; you are not required to have all this information to be able to report)

- Alleged child victim’s name and DOB (may have multiple victims)
- Parent/Caregivers’ names and DOBs
- Address and phone
- Name and age of all persons living in home
- Alleged perpetrator’s name, DOB, and location

**Report a summary of what suspected abuse or neglect has occurred.**

- Be careful not to share specific opinions or subjective information.
- Be as detailed and specific as possible.
- Be sure to describe any injuries in detail and medical provider’s impression of injuries.
- Be objective and unbiased when relaying information.

**Be sure to inform both children’s services and law enforcement if there is a concern for the child’s immediate safety to ensure emergency response.**

- i.e. if caregiver with child is alleged perpetrator or the alleged perpetrator will still have access to the child once they leave your facility

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **It is NOT your job to investigate.** You do not need evidence that abuse/neglect is happening, only **suspicion based on facts** of abuse/neglect is necessary for you to be **mandated** by law to report.
- Always be sure to inform your social work department of concerns.
- When in doubt, **report** to children’s services and law enforcement.
- Do not make a referral to a human trafficking hotline without patient and legal guardian permission.