

## **RESPONSIBILITY IN REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

**All persons must, under Pennsylvania State Law (§ 3490.11), make a report of suspected child sexual abuse. The incident must be reported immediately to the PA Department of Public Welfare-ChildLine at (800) 932-0313 or to the County office of the County in which the suspected abuse has occurred.**

Montgomery County, Child & Youth: 610-278-5800.

Bucks County, 24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-932-0313

Delaware County:

- Upper Darby Office: 610-713-2000
- Chester Office: 610-447-1000
- Sexual Abuse Center: 610-891-5258

Philadelphia County, Dept. of Human Services: 215-683-4DHS

**All persons must comply with State and Local laws regarding incidents of actual or suspected child sexual abuse.**

A person who, in the course of employment, occupation or practice of a profession, has reasonable cause to suspect, on the basis of medical, professional or other training and experience, that a child under the care, supervision, guidance or training of that person or of an agency, institution, organization or other entity with which that person is affiliated is a victim of child abuse, including child abuse by an individual who is not a perpetrator. It is not necessary for mandated reporters to determine if an individual is a perpetrator under the CPSL and a report shall be made to ChildLine regardless of the status of the individual. The only exceptions to this are in respect to confidential communications made with a member of the clergy or an attorney.

Yes. The child need not come before you directly in your professional or official capacity, but must be under the care, supervision, guidance or training of an agency, institution, organization or other entity with which you are affiliated. In your personal life, you may report a case as a non-mandated reporter.

### **Pennsylvania State Code § 3490.11. Reporting suspected child abuse.**

(a) A person may make a report of suspected child abuse to ChildLine or a county agency if the person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused. Reports shall be accepted by ChildLine or the county agency regardless of whether the person identifies himself.

Any suspicions about child sex abuse, whether committed by a priest or pastor, or even a parent, should be reported immediately to local law enforcement and Children & Youth Services agencies. In Pennsylvania, the following procedure/agencies handle reports of child abuse, sexual and physical:

### ***G-4.0302 Mandatory Reporting***

Any member of this church engaged in ordered ministry and any certified Christian educator employed by this church or its congregations, shall report to ecclesiastical and civil legal authorities knowledge of harm, or the risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity when (1) such information is gained outside of a confidential communication as defined in G-4.0301, (2) she or he is not bound by an obligation of privileged communication under law, or (3) she or he reasonably believes that there is risk of future physical harm or abuse.