

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

The Boy Scouts of America requires immediate notification of the Scout executive whenever information about possible child abuse in the Scouting program is uncovered. The current policy for after-hours notifications is to wait until the next business day and call the Council Resource Center in Milford at (203) 876-6868 or toll-free at (800) 333-7905.

The Scout executive will ensure that all state reporting requirements are met and will take measures to protect the youth in the Scouting movement.

If an immediate report is to be made due to extreme urgency, call the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at **(800) 842-2288**. The Council should be contacted by leaving a message on the Council Resource Center answering machine. The Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Form should be completed and submitted to the Council.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN CONNECTICUT

The law says any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or acts of child abuse shall report this information immediately to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Calls should be made to the DCF hotline at **(800) 842-2288**.

The DCF Child Abuse and Neglect hotline is toll-free and is operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week to receive reports of child abuse and neglect. Calls received at DCF during normal working hours are immediately referred to the appropriate district office, and calls received after hours are referred to primary investigators.

DCF accepts all allegations of child abuse and neglect by telephone and in person from all sources, including identified sources, news media, anonymous sources, sources that have incomplete information, and referrals from the child or parent themselves.

Upon receiving a report of child abuse or neglect, a DCF caseworker shall investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY

Any person who, pursuant to the law, reports abuse and 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.

PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT

Any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect pursuant to the law or to comply with the provisions of the law is a disorderly person and subject to a fine up to \$2,000 or up to one year imprisonment, or both.