

What is Unlawful Sexual Behavior?

- Sexual assault on a child or sexual contact with a child.
- A child who is 14 or younger cannot consent to sexual contact with a person who is more than 4 years older. A child who is 15 or 16 cannot consent to sexual contact with a person who is more than 10 years older.
- Exposing intimate body parts to a child.
- Sexual Exploitation of a child (i.e., taking nude or sexually explicit pictures).
- Possessing child pornography.
- Prostituting a child.

How Do You Know If A Child Has Been abused?

- You are not required to "know," but if you suspect abuse then you **MUST** report it.
- If a child presents with injuries that are inconsistent with explanation.
- If a child discloses physical or sexual abuse, or neglect.
- If you witness abuse.
- If a child's demeanor has drastically changed, or they are acting out sexually or otherwise.
- If in doubt **REPORT**.

How Do I Report?

You may report to human services or law enforcement during business hours, and to law enforcement after business hours. If the child is in imminent danger then law enforcement must be notified immediately. The jurisdiction for law enforcement is where the crime occurred, and the jurisdiction for human services is where the child resides (sometimes they are different). A written report **SHALL** be completed as soon as possible.

Important Contacts

Douglas County Sheriff's Office:

- Emergency 911
- Non-Emergency (303) 660-7500
- Special Victims Unit:
- Sergeant Jenny McMillan (303) 660-7562
- Detective Dea Aragon (303) 814-7131
- Detective Christine Brite (303) 814-7029
- Detective Heather Mykes (303) 660-7563
- Detective Dave Weaver (303) 660-7537
- Detective Lori Wesolowski (303) 663-7248

Douglas County Human Services:

(303) 688-4825



Douglas County Sheriff's Office

4000 Justice Way
Castle Rock, CO 80109

www.dcsheriff.net

A Unified Community



*Mandatory Reporting
of
Child Abuse or Neglect*

Douglas County Sheriff's Office

What is Mandatory Reporting?

Mandatory Reporting C.R.S. 19-3-304

Any person listed under this statute who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately report to law enforcement or human services.

Child Abuse C.R.S. 18-6-401



A person commits child abuse if such person causes an injury to a child's life or health, or permits a child to be unreasonably placed in a situation that poses a threat of injury to the child's life or health, or engages in a continued pattern of conduct that results in malnourishment, lack of proper medical care, cruel punishment, mistreatment, or an accumulation of injuries that ultimately results in the death of a child or serious bodily injury to a child.

The Colorado Children's Code defines a child as anyone under the age of eighteen.

Who Are Mandatory Reporters?

- Child health associate;
- Christian science practitioner;
- Chiroprapist or podiatrist;
- Chiropractor;
- Clergy member;
- Commercial film and photographic print processor;
- Dental hygienist;
- Dentist;
- Firefighter;
- Hospital personnel engaged in the admission, care, or treatment of patients;
- Licensed professional counselors;
- Licensed marriage and family therapists;
- Medical examiner or coroner;
- Mental health professional;
- Osteopath;
- Optometrist;
- Peace officer;
- Pharmacist;
- Physician or surgeon, including a physician in training;
- Psychologist;
- Physical therapist;
- Public or private school official or employee;
- Registered nurse or licensed practical nurse;
- Social worker or worker in a family child care home, foster care home, or child care center;
- Unlicensed psychotherapists;
- Veterinarian;
- Victim's advocate;

Guidelines For Reporting

- When a mandatory reporter suspects child abuse they shall immediately report to law enforcement or human services.
- Do not notify parents of investigations involving intrafamilial abuse. Law enforcement and/or human services will make the notification.

Human Services

- A case involving intrafamilial abuse where the child is not in immediate danger or in need of immediate intervention.
- A case involving suspected lack of parental supervision that will probably not result in criminal charges being filed (i.e., concern that older children are left alone)

Law Enforcement

- A case where the child is in imminent danger and immediate intervention is necessary.
- When a delay in investigation could place the child at risk for further abuse.
- Any case that arises outside normal business hours.
- Any case involving 3rd party abuse.

What Happens If I Do Not Report?

If you willfully violate the mandatory reporting requirements you could be charged with a class 3 misdemeanor, which is punishable by a \$50-\$750 fine and/or up to 6 months imprisonment.

