

# **Georgia's Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting Law**

## ***Who Must Report***

Any person working in any capacity (volunteer or otherwise) at any organization that provides education, training, supervision, coaching, counseling, recreational programs, or shelter to children under 18 years old.

## ***What to Report***

Suspected Child Abuse—A person must report when they have reasonable cause to believe that child abuse has occurred. Reasonable cause is anything that would lead a reasonable person to believe that child abuse has occurred. Reasonable cause to believe that abuse has occurred can be based on what the person observes or hears.

## ***When to Report***

The suspected child abuse must be reported no later than 24 hours after the child abuse is first suspected.

## ***To Whom to Report***

Any person who suspects child abuse must report the suspected abuse to the individual in charge of the organization where the person is working. To be safe, an MCGSA volunteer who suspects child abuse involving a player should report the suspected abuse to the president of MCGSA.

An oral report must also be made to the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). Upon suspecting abuse, the person should call the county's DFCS report line. The appropriate DFCS telephone number can be found at the following web address: <http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/complete-list-all-county-offices>.

## ***What Information to Report***

The following information must be reported:

- The name and address of the child and the child's parents or caretakers;
- The child's age;
- The nature and extent of the child's injuries; and
- Any information that the employee believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries and the identity of the person who caused the injuries.

If the above information is not known, the person suspecting abuse should seek help from a school social worker or counselor. The person must report as much of the above information as can be obtained.