

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

The Boy Scouts requires immediate notification to Scout Executive Eric A. Magendantz whenever information about possible child abuse in the Scouting program is uncovered. The current policy for after-hours notification is to wait until the next business day and call the Durham Scout Center in Omaha at 402-431-9BSA.

The Scout Executive will ensure that all state reporting requirements have been met and will also take measures to protect the youth in the Scouting movement.

If an immediate report is to be made due to extreme urgency, a contact to the State Child Protective Services should be made: NE 1-800-652-1999, IA 1-800-362-2178, SD 1-866-847-7338. The council should be contacted by leaving a message on the council service center answering machine. The "Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Form" should be completed and submitted to the council.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN (Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota)

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 Division on Youth and Family Services (DYFS).

From 9:00am to 5:00pm weekdays, reports of child abuse and neglect can be made to the local DYFS district office. There is at least one district office in every county. The State Child Protective Services operates a toll-free, 24hr, seven-day-week hotline: NE 1-800-652-1999, IA 1-800-362-2178, SD 1-866-847-7338 to receive reports of child abuse and neglect. Calls received at OCAC during normal working hours are immediately referred to the appropriate district office, and calls received after hours are referred to the Special Response Unit (SPRU).

DYFS accepts all allegations of child abuse and neglect, a DYFS 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 \$1,000 or up to six months imprisonment, or both.