



## **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

### **Foster Parents are mandated reporters.**

**Any one in the community can report child abuse and neglect. *In Alaska, there is statewide number to report abuse or neglect of a child.***

**Call 1-800-478-4444**

**[ReportChildAbuse@alaska.gov](mailto:ReportChildAbuse@alaska.gov)**

**or Fax: 907-269-3939**

To protect children from abuse and neglect, ***Alaska law (AS 47.17) requires certain persons to report suspected maltreatment of children.*** Foster parents along with child care providers, teachers, social workers, doctors, law enforcement, school personnel, and health professionals are required to report. This means that if in the performance of your duties as a foster parent, you suspect a child has been abused (this also means the child placed in your foster home) you are mandated to report it to OCS. This include abuse that has happened in the past that has not yet been identified by OCS.

**Foster parents should report any information they have of abuse of a child to the Office of Children's Services.** *A foster parent should report this information to the Intake Screener. Identify who you are or you can remain anonymous, state that you would like to make a report of harm. If the child is a foster child and has a social worker on the case let them know too. If you are not sure if it is worth reporting, report nonetheless!*

**Document your concerns in writing.** If a child discloses abuse, write down the exact words they used. Memories often become faulty with time. Written records may also show patterns. Document when you make a report, who you talked to and what response you got. This helps if you need to follow up and document that you fulfilled your reporting responsibility.

If a child comes back from a visit and shows new signs of injury or ***if you suspect that the child has been abused or molested after a visit, contact the OCS worker immediately!***

To Take On Line Training on Reporting Child Abuse for Mandatory Reporters, go to <http://training.dhss.alaska.gov/mandatoryreporter/training/>