

- Mandatory for everyone to report suspected child abuse or neglect, even if the alleged perpetrator is not the child's caregiver (estimated 40,000 new calls to the child abuse hotline)
- Public or private universities and colleges can be fined \$1 million if administrators find out child abuse or neglect has occurred and fail to report it
- Includes abuse on campus and at off-campus, university affiliated events
- Requires DCF to provide for web-chat and update other web-based forms for reporting child abuse, abandonment or neglect



F.S. 39.201(1)

- (b) Any person who knows, or who has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused by an adult other than a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter, shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department in the manner prescribed in subsection (2).
- (c) Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is the victim of childhood sexual abuse or the victim of a known or suspected juvenile sexual offender, as defined in this chapter, shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department in the manner prescribed in subsection (2).

Mandatory Reporting

F.S. 39.201(2)(b)

Each report of known or suspected child abuse by an adult other than a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter, shall be made immediately to the department's central abuse hotline. Such reports may be made on the single statewide toll-free telephone number or via fax, web-based chat, or web-based report. Such reports or calls shall be immediately electronically

Mandatory Reporting

F.S. 39.201(1)(a)

Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter, or that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department in the manner prescribed in subsection (2).

F.S. 39.01(2)

“Abuse ” means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child’s physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of a child includes acts or omissions. Corporal discipline of a child by a parent or legal custodian for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse when it does not result in harm to the child.



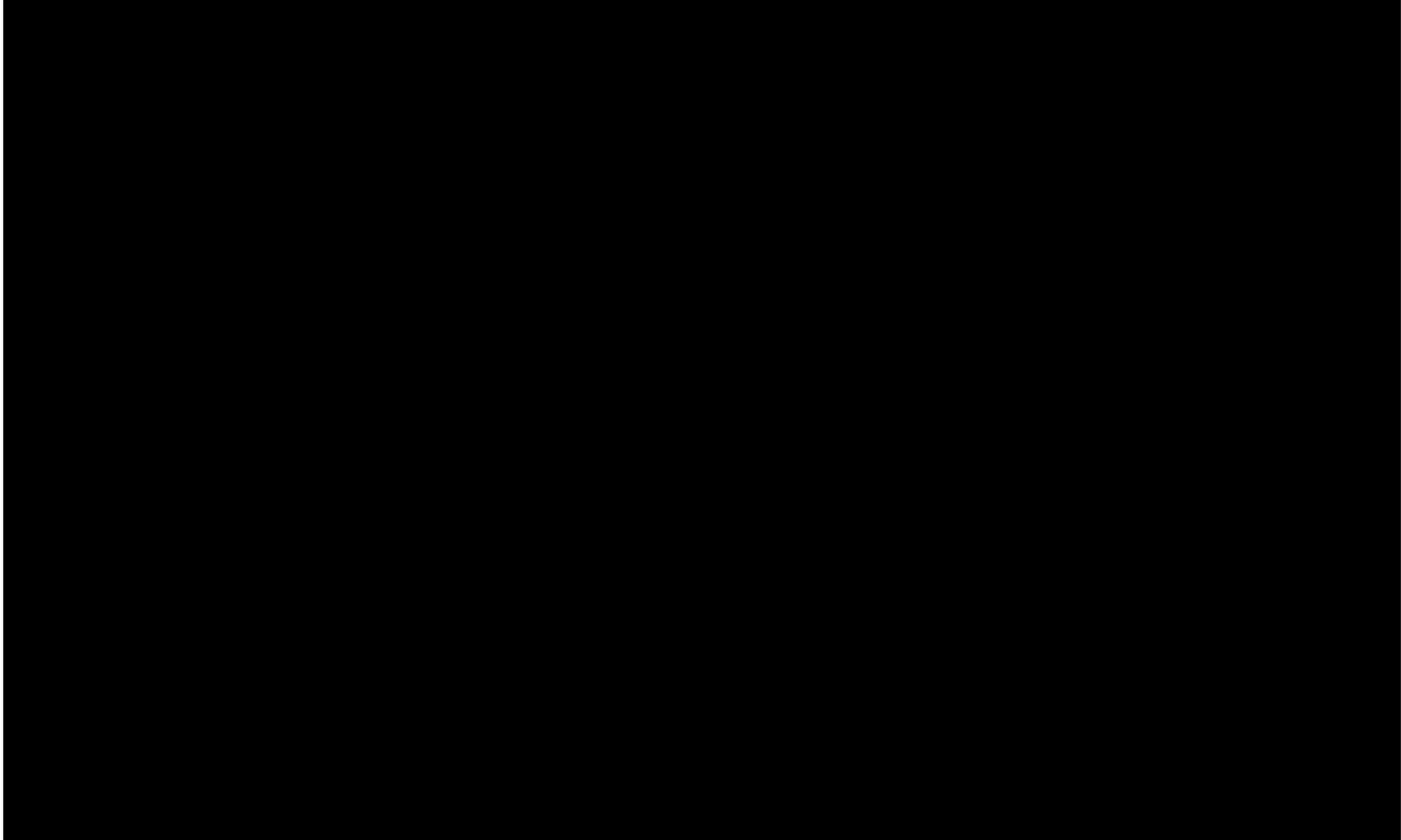
How to Report

Telephone : 1-800-96-ABUSE
1-800-962-2873

Fax: 1-800-914-0004

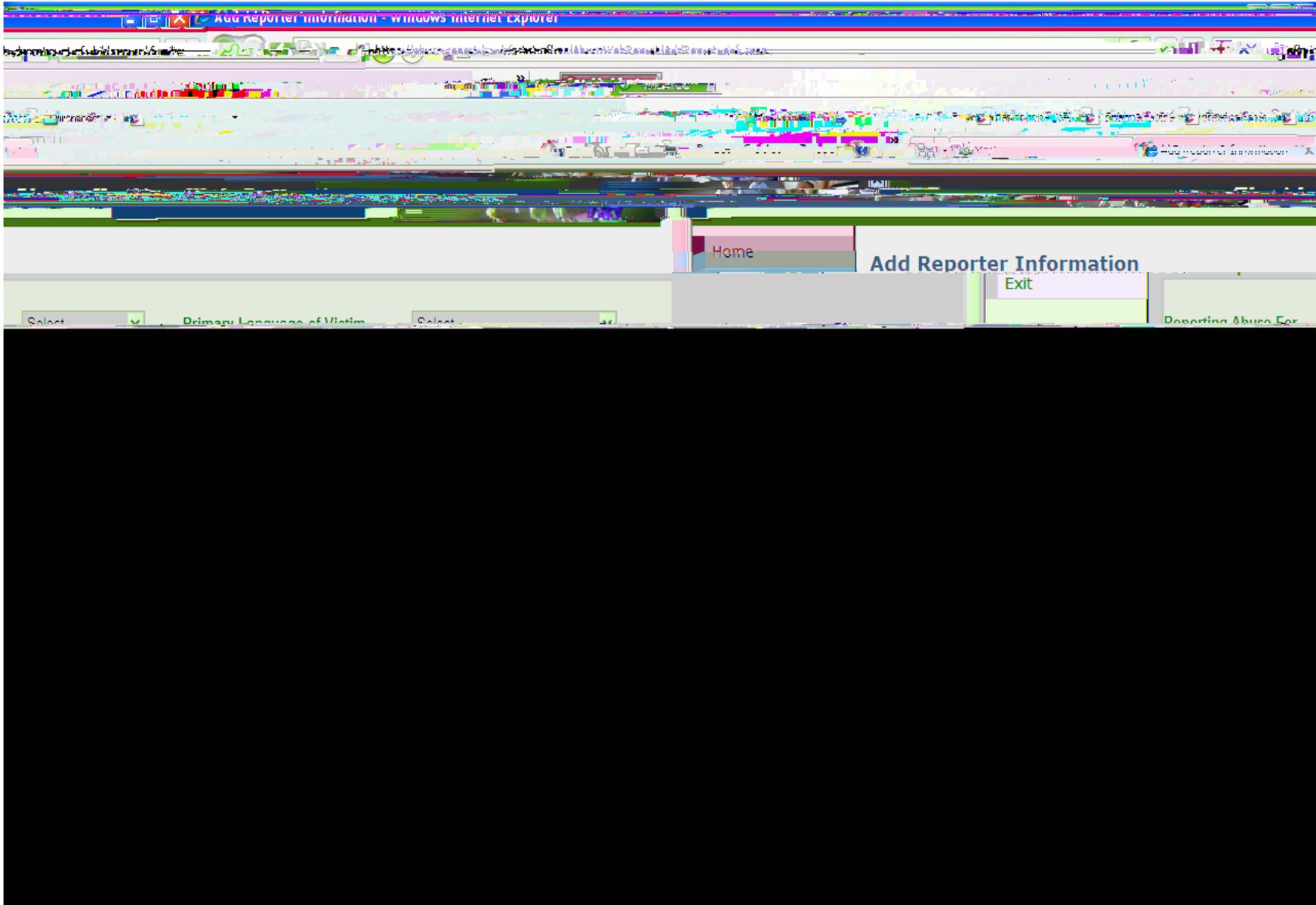
Web report :

[http:// www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/)









What Information will a Hotline Counselor collect for Non Caregiver Abuse and Child on Child Sexual Abuse allegations?

For all allegations of this nature, a Hotline Counselor will gather:

- Incident Location
- First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, Race, Sex, and Last Known Address for all participants
- Caller information, Caller Type/Profession, Place of Work, Work Address, work phone, cell phone, Badge Number and Case Number (as appropriate)
- Caller Statements regarding the incident
- Any address information useful in locating the victim or perpetrator
- If received from Law Enforcement personnel other than a Sheriff/Deputy, counselor will clarify whether the incident is being investigated by the reporting municipality, or if they are only reporting the incident.

Immediate Electronic transfer of the caller to the appropriate Sheriff's office for In Progress Calls:

The Hotline Counselor will transfer the caller to the Local Sheriff's Office, only if the call is In Progress, before releasing the call they must announce themselves and the reason for the transfer.

The standard language used will be:

This is <Hotline counselor name> from the Florida Abuse Hotline, and I have a reporter on the line with allegations of Non Caregiver Child Abuse/Child on Child Sexual abuse that occurred within <insert county> county and is currently in progress. If you are ready, I will transfer the

Electronic dissemination of the documented information to the appropriate Sheriff's office:

Hotline Terminology:

Participant:

Common Role Abbreviations:

| | |
|------|---|
| AP: | Alleged Perpetrator |
| CH: | Child in Home |
| HM: | Household Member |
| IN: | Intake Name (FSFN derived role for DCF case naming convention) |
| NM: | Non-Household Member |
| PC: | Parent/Caregiver |
| SO: | Significant Other |
| V: | Victim |
| JS: | Alleged Juvenile Sexual Offender |
| IC: | Identified Child (Victim child of an Alleged Juvenile Sexual Offender) |
| RN: | Special Conditions Referral Name (FSFN derived role for DCF case naming convention) |
| RPT: | Reporter |

Example of a Florida Child Abuse Hotline Notification:

Header



Incident Location



Participant Information



Reporter Information



Allegation Narrative

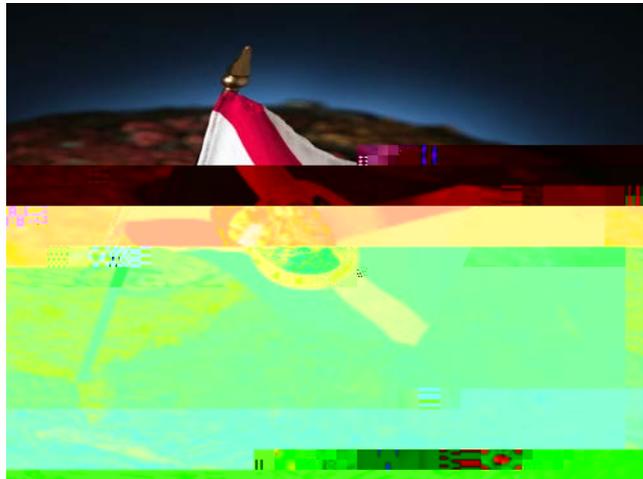


Reporter Narrative



Reference Number

Header Information: Non Caregiver Child Abuse, or Child on Child Sexual Abuse Allegations



Incident Location: FSN Victim/24 Location Narrative Field

NOTE: The Florida Abuse Hotline uses this field to note incident location, home address, current location and where the victim will be in the next 24 hours. Due to the automatic population of information from the Hotline system to FCIC, the Sheriff's will also see this information in the FAM message.

Participant Information:

Format:

Role in FSFN, First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, Sex, Race, and Last known address

NOTE: If participants are unknown, the unknown information will populate in the Florida Administrative Message. There may be more

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Reporter Narrative: The Florida Abuse Hotline utilizes the reporter narrative to note information regarding the reporter, such as place of work, case number, badge number and any confidential information stated by the reporter. This narrative will also included any other sources who may have information regarding the incident.

NOTE: The Hotline uses this field to note information used by the DCF Child Protective Investigators; therefore, Sheriff's may receive information, such as, "No Known Hearing Impairments", as seen in the example above. Due to auto population, the information cannot be parsed out.

FSFN Report Number: The last thing in the Florida Administrative Message is the FSFN (DCF) Report Number.

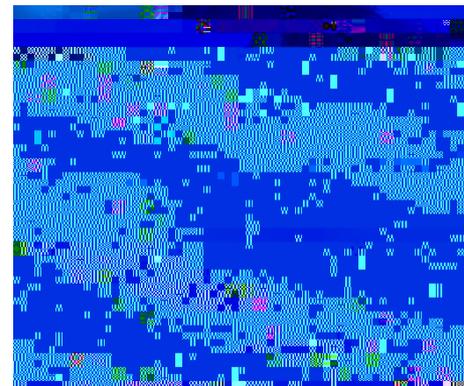
The FSFN number is preceded by “REF#”. This is denoting a reference number to the Sheriff’s, to be used in the event they need to call the Hotline to get more information, ask a question, or perhaps want to listen to a call. The reference number will begin with the year, for example, 2012, followed by six digits.

Phase two of implementation for the Non-Caregiver Child Abuse electronic dissemination will include the Sheriff’s obtaining local FSFN access so they have all the information contained with FSFN on a family, including access to the phone, fax, or online web contact.

Circular Reporting:

In order to avoid circular reporting, (the act of the Hotline sending a phone call or FAM message back out to the Sheriff's office who called it in) if the call, fax or online web report received by the Hotline is from a Sheriff, from the jurisdiction in which the incident occurred, the call and FAM message will not be forwarded back out to that Sheriff's office.

In the event the Hotline received the information from another municipality, the Hotline will clearly note the Law Enforcement officer's name, place or work, address, phone number(s), badge number, and case number in the FAM message.

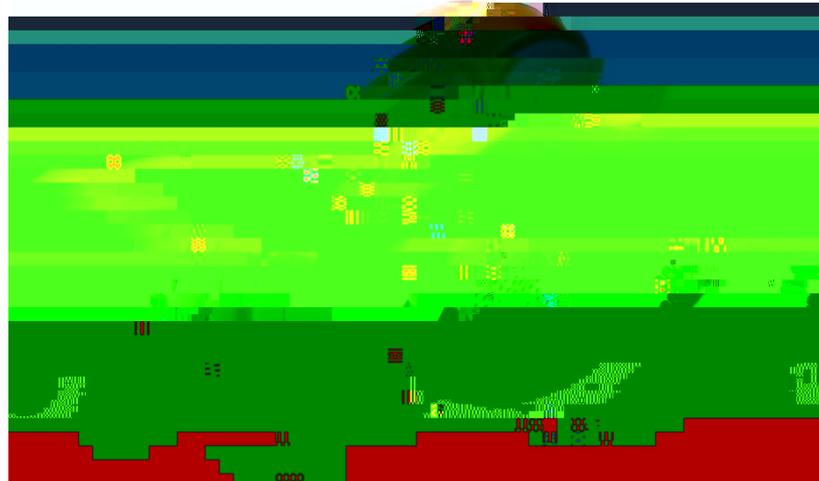


Reporter Information is CONFIDENTIAL

39.202(5) The name of any person reporting child abuse, abandonment, or neglect may not be released to any person other than employees of the department responsible for child protective services, the central abuse hotline, law enforcement, the child protection team, or the appropriate state attorney, without the written consent of the person reporting. This does not prohibit the subpoena of a person reporting child abuse, abandonment, or neglect when deemed necessary by the court, the state attorney, or the department, provided the fact that the person that made the report is not disclosed.

***Therefore, when information comes from the Florida Child Abuse

- Any person who knows or has reasonable suspicion that a child is a victim of childhood sexual abuse or is a victim of a juvenile sexual offender must report that knowledge or reasonable suspicion
- Report of child abuse required by the bill must be accepted by the Florida Abuse Hotline and forwarded to the appropriate sheriff's office





- Increase criminal penalties for "knowingly and willfully" failing to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment or neglect, or preventing another person from doing so – now 3rd degree felony
- \$1.5 million appropriation for DCF implementation – 47 new hotline counselors
- \$1.5 million to relocate sexual battery victims, with \$1,500 to \$3,000 set aside to help move a victim to a safer location if necessary
- Extends the Florida Crimes Compensation Act to include any child abuse that results in "mental injury" to a child, even if the child wasn't physically injured
- October 1, 2012 effective date

- DCF must conduct a study on the feasibility of adding text and short message service formats as a means for the hotline to accept and process reports of abuse
- Requires DCF to partner with community-based organizations and public service campaigns to promote public awareness of the hotline



- Increases criminal penalties by reclassifying certain violations involving sexual conduct with minors.
- Defines “aggravated child abuse” and “mental injury” for the purpose of criminalizing aggravated child abuse and providing for the prosecution of persons who abuse a child and cause mental injury, without an accompanying physical injury.



