

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

Under the "child Protection Act of 2987" (C.R.S. 19-3-301) in the Colorado Children's Code, child care center workers are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect. The law at 19-3-304 states that if a child care worker has "reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to circumstances or conditions which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately report or cause a report to be made of such fact to the county department or local law enforcement agency."

"Abuse" or "child abuse or neglect" means an act or omission in one of the following categories which threatens the health or welfare of a child: skin bruising, bleeding, tissue swelling, or death; any cause in which a child is subjected to sexual assault or molestation, sexual exploitation, or prostitution; any case in which a child is in need of services because the child's parents, legal guardian, or custodian fails to take the same actions to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision that a prudent parent would take.

If at any time a staff member reasonably suspects child abuse, it is the responsibility of that staff member to report or to cause a report to be made of this suspicion to the local county department of social or human services at 625-5282 or the police department. It is not the staff's role to investigate suspected abuse--only to report it. Persons who make a good faith report are immune from civil and criminal liability. Additionally, the law provides for the protection of the identity of the reporting party.

A child care worker who fails to report suspected child abuse or neglect commits a class 3 misdemeanor and will be punished as provided in section 19-3-304 (4) (a) (b), C.R.S. The staff person could also be liable for damages "proximately caused thereby."

I have read and understand the above requirements concerning my responsibility regarding child abuse reporting.

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print Name)

Child Abuse Statement

I hereby do state that I have never been convicted of any felony, child abuse, or unlawful sexual offense.

Signature _____

Print name _____

Date _____