

# WHEN AND HOW DO I REPORT CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

You should report if you have reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect has occurred, if a child has died as a result of child abuse or neglect, or if you observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in child abuse or neglect.

Please call the **Child Abuse Hotline** at **1-800-482-5964**.

You can remain anonymous if you choose.

We Care  
We Act  
We Change Lives



## CONTACT

Phone: 501-682-8770  
Facebook: @archildwelfare

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about...

# DCFS RESPONSE TO ABUSE & NEGLECT

## DCFS RESPONSES

If allegations reported to the Child Abuse Hotline are accepted and sent to DCFS, we have two main responses: conduct an investigation or a Differential Response.

## INVESTIGATIONS

We have 45 days to complete an investigation. We will speak with the alleged victim and offender, as well as others with information. If found true, we will open a case.

## DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE

Differential Response is designed to engage low to moderate risk families in services needed to keep children from becoming involved with the child welfare system.

## TYPES OF ALLEGATIONS

In general, allegations fall into three broad categories:

- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse

Neglect may include inadequate food, shelter, and supervision, or failure to protect from harm.

Physical abuse may include striking or shaking a child, interfering with a child's breathing, or giving a child drugs or alcohol.

Sexual abuse may include sexual abuse, sexual contact, or sexual exploitation.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Services to help families are often provided during the investigation or Differential Response, sometimes preventing the need for an official case to be opened.

Differential Response is for families experiencing issues around inadequate food, shelter, or clothing, or perhaps educational or medical neglect.

A true finding during an investigation does not mean that a child must come into foster care. In fact, we help more families stay safely together with in-home services than we do by providing foster care services.

