

Centralized Intake for Abuse and Neglect

To make a report of abuse or neglect, call:

1.800.352.6513

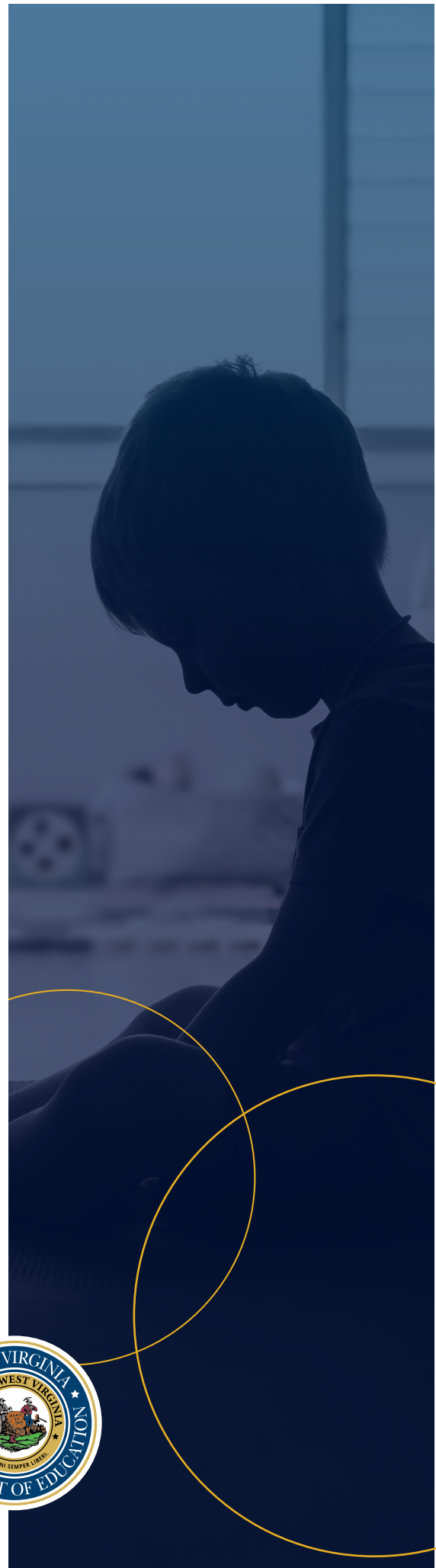
What information do I need to provide when calling Centralized Intake?

- » Demographic information of the victim(s)
- » Type of abuse or neglect suspected
- » Is the victim in imminent danger?
- » Location of the victim and caregivers
- » Is there a protective caregiver present?
- » Does the alleged perpetrator have access to the victim?
- » General functioning of victim and caregivers
- » Any safety threats for first responders

Mandated Reporters

Anyone may report suspected abuse or neglect. However, under W. Va. Code §49-2-803, certain persons are mandated reporters and required to make a report. These persons are:

- » Medical, dental, and mental health professionals
- » Christian Science practitioners
- » Religious healers
- » School teachers
- » Other school personnel
- » Social service workers
- » Child care workers
- » Foster care workers
- » Emergency medical services personnel
- » Peace officers
- » Law-enforcement officials
- » Humane officers
- » Members of the clergy
- » Circuit court judges, family court judges, and magistrates
- » Employees of the Division of Juvenile Service



Report IMMEDIATELY under the following circumstances:

Any mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is neglected or abused, including sexual abuse or sexual assault, or observes the child being subjected to conditions that are likely to result in abuse or neglect shall immediately, and not more than 24 hours after suspecting this abuse or neglect, report the circumstances to the Department of Human Services.

In any case where the reporter believes that the child suffered serious physical abuse or sexual abuse or sexual assault, the reporter shall also immediately report to the State Police and any law-enforcement agency having jurisdiction to investigate the complaint.

“Reporting to a principal, supervisor, or administrator does not relieve an individual’s legal responsibility to report suspected abuse or neglect. Mandated reporters must ensure that a report is made in accordance with W. Va. Code §49-2-803.”

Am I protected if I make a report?

Under W. Va. Code §49-2-810, persons making a report in good faith are immune from civil or criminal liability.

Disclosures

When body safety education is delivered, the increased likelihood of disclosures of possible abuse is a reality. Educators and administrators should be prepared for potential disclosures and be able to respond appropriately.

If a child discloses...

DO:

- » Remain calm.
- » Believe the child.
- » Allow the child to talk.
- » Show interest and concern.
- » Reassure and support the child.
- » Take immediate action. It could save a child’s life.

DON’T

- » Panic or overreact.
- » Press the child to talk.
- » Promise anything you can’t control.
- » Confront the offender.
- » Blame or minimize the child’s feelings.
- » Overwhelm the child with questions.