



PennState

Building a Safe Penn State



Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

Penn State is committed to building a safe community for children at all of our campus and program locations. We all play an extremely important role in the protection and welfare of children. As members of the Penn State Community...

- **WE ARE** committed to addressing child abuse in our community
 - **WE CARE** by knowing the types of child abuse and neglect
 - **WE ACT** by reporting any and all suspected child abuse
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We Are . . .

Committed to addressing child abuse in our community.

Each year thousands of children are abused in Pennsylvania; however, only a small percentage of that abuse is reported to appropriate authorities. Protecting children is the responsibility of us all. Anybody who thinks that a child is being hurt should report that suspicion.

ALL University employees, volunteers, and independent contractors, who in the course of their business or volunteer activity, have reasonable suspicion of child abuse are required to make a report as outlined in Policy AD72 (Reporting Child Abuse). For further details on this policy, please visit <http://quru.psu.edu/policies/AD72.html>.

We Care . . .

By knowing the types of child abuse and neglect.

The Child Protective Services Law establishes definitions and criteria for the categories of abuse in Pennsylvania. These categories are:

- Bodily injury or likelihood of bodily injury
- Fabricating, exaggerating, or inducing a medical symptom or disease
- Serious physical neglect or serious mental injury
- Sexual abuse or exploitation or likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation
- Additional specific recent acts, including but not limited to, kicking, biting, burning, unreasonably restraining a child, or interfering with the breathing of a child.
- Causing the death of a child through any act or failure to act

We Act . . .

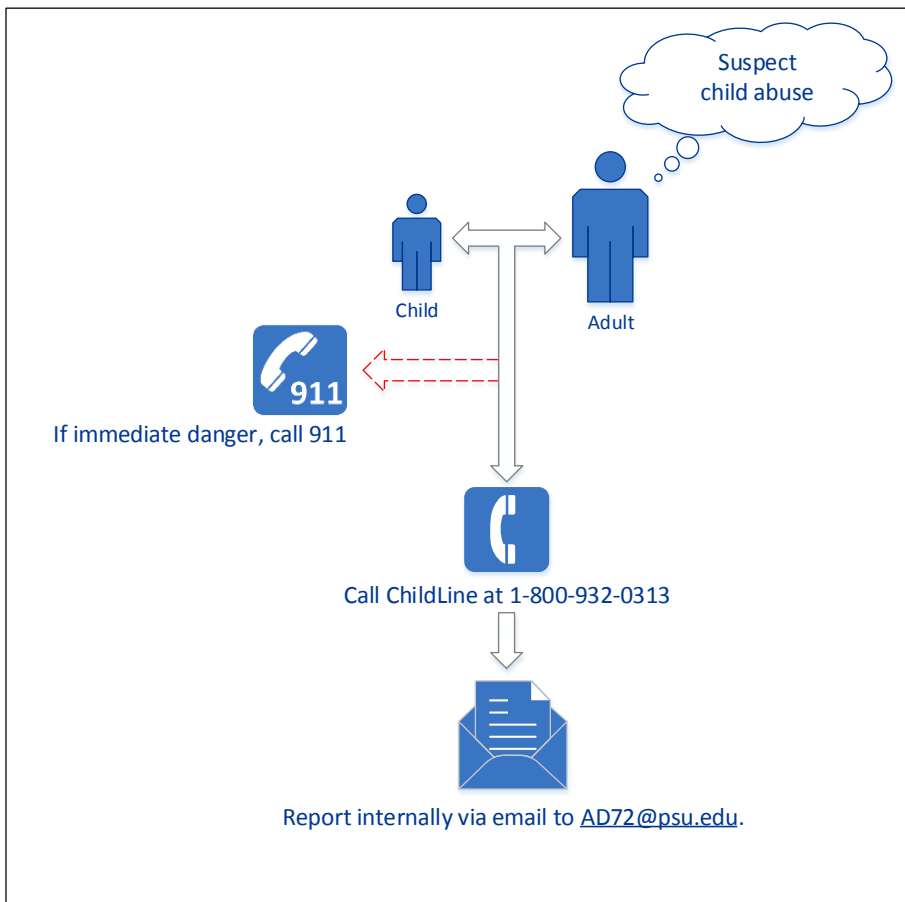
By reporting suspected child abuse.

When child abuse is suspected in Pennsylvania, a report is made by calling ChildLine, an agency of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and the department's Office of Children, Youth, and Families, which works with counties on child abuse prevention issues. The mission of ChildLine is to accept calls from the public and professional sources 24 hours per day, seven days per week. ChildLine will provide information, counseling, and referral services for families and children to ensure the safety and well-being of children of Pennsylvania.

All suspected abuse is to be reported to ChildLine, but that is only one step in the reporting process at Penn State. The process for reporting child abuse at Penn State is addressed in Administrative Policy AD72. Pursuant to Pennsylvania law, the policy specifically outlines the reporting steps, which are:

1. If a child is in immediate danger, contact police at 911 to obtain immediate protection for the child
2. Immediately make a report to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services via ChildLine (1-800-932-0313)
3. Immediately notify Penn State by sending an email to AD72@psu.edu

There are many reasons why individuals may hesitate to report abuse, even though they may be required to do so by law. Under the CPSL, a person that in good faith makes a report of child abuse, whether required by law or not, has immunity from civil and criminal liability. This is important protection to help increase the likelihood that more reports will be made to protect abused children. In addition, under CPSL, the release of information that would identify the reporter is prohibited. To the extent provided by law, Penn State will also protect the privacy rights of the person making the report.



For more information about keeping children safe in Pennsylvania, please visit: <http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov>

**To Report Suspected
Child Abuse
Call
ChildLine
(800) 932-0313**

For further information on Penn State's policy for reporting suspected child abuse, please contact:

The Office of Ethics & Compliance

814.867.5088

WWW.UNIVERSITYETHICS.PSU.EDU