

# Child Abuse Reporting

Inspired by the Penn State sex-abuse scandal, Senate Bill 239 broadens the list of people required to report suspected child abuse to include coaches, among others. It also reduces the time period for mandatory reporting of suspected abuse from 72 hours to 24 hours, and increases fines and criminal penalties for failing to make a report.

## **Code of Virginia requires reporting of child abuse as follows (changes effective July 1, 2012 are highlighted):**

§ 63.2-1509. Requirement that certain injuries to children be reported by physicians, nurses, teachers, etc.; penalty for failure to report.

- A. The following persons who, in their professional or official capacity, have reason to suspect that a child is an abused or neglected child, shall report the matter immediately to the local department of the county or city wherein the child resides or wherein the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred or to the Department's toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline: (See below)

**Any athletic coach, director or other person 18 years of age or older employed by or volunteering with a private sports organization or team.**

Any person who makes a report or provides records or information pursuant to subsection A or who testifies in any judicial proceeding arising from such report, records, or information shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability or administrative penalty or sanction on account of such report, records, information, or testimony, unless such person acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

Any person required to file a report pursuant to this section who fails to do so as soon as possible, but not longer than **24 hours** after having reason to suspect a reportable offense of child abuse or neglect, shall be fined not more than \$500 for the first failure and for any subsequent failures not less than \$1,000. In cases evidencing acts of rape, sodomy, or object sexual penetration as defined in Article 7 (§ [18.2-61](#) et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, a person who knowingly and intentionally fails to make the report required pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## Child Abuse and Neglect Contact Numbers

### Social Services Contact Numbers for Hampton Roads

- **Va. Beach: Business Hours 757-437-3400**
- **Va. Beach after hours HOTLINE 1-800-552-7096**

Additional numbers are important because, if a child does not reside in Virginia Beach, then you are to contact the Human Services Agency in the city which they are residing while using our programs. Ex. Child lives in Norfolk with mom, but dad lives in Virginia Beach and the child is enrolled in our program. We would call Norfolk Social Services.

- Norfolk: Business Hours 757-664-6022
- Chesapeake: Business Hours 757-382-2000
- Portsmouth: Business Hours 757-405-1800
- Suffolk: Business Hours 757-923-3000

Parks and Recreation/City-Wide Athletics requests that when a report of suspected child abuse is made, the coach also calls and informs our office at **385-0458**.

## **VOLUNTEER COACHES – You are a *Mandated Reporter*.**

Learn more about this responsibility by taking an online course:

On line course with quiz:

[www.dss.virginia.gov](http://www.dss.virginia.gov)

Put your mouse on the “Abuse and Neglect” tab to open the menu

Click on “Mandated Reporters – Training and Resources”

Find the “Child Protective Services” section

Click “Required Training/Courses” to open the menu

Click “CWS 5692 – Training - Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect”

Make sure to print certificate at the end