

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

CONTACTING THE NORTHEAST ILLINOIS COUNCIL

The Boy Scouts requires immediate notification of a Scout executive whenever information about possible child abuse in the Boy Scout program is uncovered. The current policy for after-hours notifications is to wait until the next business day and call the Scout office in Highland Park, IL and ask for Matt Ackerman at 847-433-1813 ext. 611.

The Scout executive will ensure that all state reporting requirements have been met and will also take measures to protect the youth in the Scouting movement.

If an immediate report is to be made due to extreme urgency, a contact to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline should be made: 1-800-252-2873. The council should be contacted by leaving a message for the Scout executive at 1-847-433-1813 EXT 611. The "Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Form" should be completed and submitted to the council.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN ILLINOIS

The law says any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or acts of child abuse shall report this information immediately to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)

The Hotline operates 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. Reporters should be prepared to provide phone numbers where they may be reached throughout the day in case the Hotline must call back.

When you call, a hotline social worker will listen to what you wish to report. The worker will then ask questions to help gather enough information to determine whether to take a formal report. If there is not enough information to make a report, the worker will tell you so and answer any questions you may have.

If a formal report is taken, a child protection investigator will begin the investigation within 24 hours -- much sooner if the child is considered in immediate risk of harm.

IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY

People who report alleged child abuse or neglect in good faith cannot be held liable for damages under criminal or civil law. In addition, their names are not given to the person they name as the abuser or to anyone else unless ordered by a hearing officer or judge. Members of the general public may make reports without giving their names.