

Diocesan Guidelines for Reporting Abuse

If you suspect Abuse of Children, Youth or Elders:

- Report the suspected abuse to state agencies as required by law using resources below.
- Inform leadership of the church- Rector, Warden(s), Bishop's Office or Canon to the Ordinary (handerson@nhepiscopal.org).
- Seek support from the Rector, appropriate staff members, Wardens and determine appropriate follow-up.
- Document your actions and what you witnessed.

Child & Youth Abuse- Resources for Safe Church

State of New Hampshire Law

CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATUTES AND CODES

Section 169-C:29 Persons Required to Report.

Any physician, surgeon, county medical examiner, psychiatrist, resident, intern, dentist, osteopath, optometrist, chiropractor, psychologist, therapist, registered nurse, hospital personnel (engaged in admission, examination, care and treatment of persons), Christian Science practitioner, teacher, school official, school nurse, school counselor, social worker, day care worker, any other child or foster care worker, law enforcement official, priest, minister, or rabbi *or any other person having reason to suspect that a child* has been abused or neglected shall report the same in accordance with this chapter. **Source.** 1979, 361:2, eff. Aug. 22, 1979.

Section 169-C:30 Nature and Content of Report.

An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise, and followed within 48 hours by a report in writing, if so requested, to the department. Such report shall, if known, contain the name and address of the child suspected of being neglected or abused and the person responsible for the child's welfare, the specific information indicating neglect or the nature and extent of the child's injuries (including any evidence of previous injuries), the identity of the person or persons suspected of being responsible for such neglect or abuse, and any other information that might be helpful in establishing neglect or abuse or that may be required by the department.

Source. 1979, 361:2. 1989, 146:2. 1994, 411:17. 1995, 310:175, eff. Nov. 1, 1995.

Child Protection Services

Child Protective staff work together with families to assess the safety of children, identify needs and develop a case plan. This plan defines the specific needs of the children and family members and outlines the method by which a family's protective service issues will be resolved with the assistance of DCYF.

Services are primarily delivered directly to a child and family in the home and community. The process for resolving abuse and neglect has three primary functions, Intake, Assessment and Family Services.

- Intake - DCYF receives more than 15,000 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect annually as well as reports of Children in Need of Services (CHINS) through the DCYF Intake Unit. **A toll-free number: 800-894-5533 (in state only), or 603-271-6562 (out of state) 8:00 AM. to 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday** is staffed by highly trained, experienced workers. Referrals can be made to community agencies and to the local District Office staff for further assessment.
- Assessment - This function is performed by District Office Child Protection staff who comprehensively investigate and assess each report of alleged child abuse and neglect. Approximately 8,000 reports are assessed annually in NH.
- Family Services - Treatment and rehabilitative services are provided to families whose children have been neglected or abused. Child Protection staff interact with families, courts, and providers to ensure that children's safety is maintained and that goals and objectives are met in a timely manner.

If treatment and rehabilitative services are unable to provide a safe environment for the children, temporary out-of-home placement with a relative or in foster care may be utilized to provide children with the safety they require. When children cannot safely return home, other options including Adoption are considered in order to achieve permanency and stability for them.

To further ensure the safety of NH children, a Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigates all allegations of abuse and neglect in foster homes, institutional settings, and residential, educational, and treatment facilities.

BCP supports a number of initiatives for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. These initiatives provide support for families and strive towards goals of reducing risks to children, improving parenting skills, and strengthening social support networks for families. In addition, certain initiatives seek to bring together national, state and local experts to address issues of child abuse and neglect in efforts to educate the general public and for professional development.

Please Remember

Anyone who suspects that a child is being abused or neglected is required by NH Law to call:

DCYF Central Intake Unit

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday-Friday

800-894-5533 (In-state only)

603-271-6562

During non-business hours, the public is asked to call local law enforcement for emergency responses.

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/cps/index.htm>

Elder Abuse- Resources for Safe Church

State of New Hampshire Law

ELDERLY AND ADULT SERVICES

TITLE XII: PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE: CHAPTER 161-F

Protective Services to Adults Section 161-F:46

161-F:46 Reports of Adult Abuse; Investigations. – Any person, including, but not limited to, physicians, other health care professionals, social workers, clergy, and law enforcement officials, suspecting or believing in good faith that any adult who is or who is suspected to be incapacitated has been subjected to abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation or is living in hazardous conditions shall report or cause a report to be made as follows:

I. An oral report, by telephone or otherwise, shall be made immediately, followed by a written report, if so requested, to the commissioner or his authorized representative. When oral reports are made after working hours of the department, or on weekends or holidays, such reports shall be made to the police department of the appropriate political subdivision, or to the sheriff of the county, in which the alleged abuse, neglect or exploitation occurred. Law enforcement officials receiving reports under this paragraph shall notify the commissioner within 72 hours of receipt of such reports.

II. Within 72 hours following receipt by the commissioner or his authorized representative of such oral reports, an investigation shall be initiated by the commissioner or his authorized representative.

III. Investigations shall not be made if the commissioner or his authorized representative determines that the report is frivolous or without a factual basis.

Source. 1989, 7:1. 1995, 310:175, 183, eff. Nov. 1, 1995. 2002, 36:3, eff. July 1, 2002.

Adult Protection- Frequently Asked Questions

What to do when you suspect adult abuse or neglect?

The Adult Protection Law requires any person who has a reason to believe that an incapacitated adult has been subjected to abuse, neglect, exploitation or self-neglect to make a report immediately to the Bureau of Elderly & Adult Services (BEAS). **Call (603) 271-7014 or toll Free from within NH at (800) 949-0470**

Who should report abuse or neglect?

Any person who has a reason to believe that an incapacitated adult has been subjected to abuse, neglect, exploitation or self-neglect.

Make a Report

- If you suspect abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation you must call BEAS.
- Proof of abuse or neglect is not required to make a report.
- Reports are confidential and can be anonymous.
- The Adult Protection Law does not allow BEAS to release your personal information to anyone unless you agree or a court orders BEAS to do so.

Helpful Information

When you contact BEAS, you will be asked for some information. You may not have all the answers. Just tell us what you know regarding:

- The name, address, telephone number, sex, and estimated age of the incapacitated adult. The name, address and phone number of a guardian or someone who is legally responsible for the individual.
- The full nature and extent of the individual's injuries, maltreatment, or neglect and where the incident/situation occurred.
- The type of living arrangement for the individual.
- Any information about previous injuries, abuse, maltreatment, or neglect.
- How great a risk you believe this may be to the individual.
- How you learned of this situation.
- Any action that has been taken to treat or assist the individual.
- The name, address, phone number, sex, and relationship of the person believed responsible for the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the individual.
- Your name, address and phone number.
- Any other information that could be helpful.

Sometimes people are unsure if a situation is abusive. Even if you're in doubt, call. BEAS has extensive experience in adult protection. BEAS may find no abuse or neglect has taken place but may still offer assistance to the individual.

Where to report abuse or neglect

Contact BEAS from 8-4:30, Monday-Friday at (800) 949-0470 or (603) 271-7014.

For Nursing or Assisted Living Facilities – Contact the Long Term Care Ombudsman at (800) 442-5640 or (603) 271-4375.

Call 911 or the local police after hours, weekends or holidays.

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/beas/adultprotection.htm>

More Resources from the State of New Hampshire

- Child or Youth Abuse- 800-894-5533
- Teenline- (800) 639-6095
- Elder Abuse- (800) 949-0470
- Alzheimer's Resources- (800) 351-1888
- NH Helpline- 24hrs./day service referrals- Dial 211 or www.211NH.org