



Protection of Vulnerable Persons Act

Florida has the strictest mandatory child abuse reporting law in the nation. On 10/1/2012, Florida's Protection of Vulnerable Persons Act, Florida Statutes Section 39.201, became law.

The law requires everyone in the state of Florida to personally report any type of child abuse (including neglect and abandonment), whether committed by a caretaker or not, to the FL Department of Children and Families (DCF). Report child abuse to the Department of Child and Families via DCF Abuse Hotline 1-800-962-2873 or [Reporting Concerns for Child Victims form](#).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Failure to report is a 3rd degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison and up to a \$5,000 fine. ➤ There is a one million dollar fine if University administrators fail to properly report incidents occurring on university property or during university sponsored events. ➤ The law requires reporting of sexual abuse committed by another child (juvenile sexual offender). ➤ The report must be made "immediately." Immediately means immediately—the only delay allowed is to gather information necessary to make the report, and even that should be expedited. ➤ Keep a copy of your report, or document that you made the report and to whom you made it (the DCF operator should give you a name and ID number). Fax reports are recommended because multiple parties can report via the same fax. Ensure you get a confirmation/receipt. 	<p>What Triggers your Reporting Obligation? Your duty to report is triggered if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ see, ✓ know, or ✓ have a reasonable suspicion <p>that a child is being abused.</p> <p>"Reasonable suspicion" is a very low standard—less than probable cause.</p> <p>"Child" is anyone under the age of 18, even if the child's 18th birthday is the next day.</p> <p>"Abuse" means act or threatened act that results in physical, mental, or sexual injury or harm that is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired</p>
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Department of Human Resources • 777 Glades Road • Boca Raton, FL 33431
 tel: 561.297.3058 • fax: 561.297.1256 • emprels@fau.edu • www.fau.edu

- If you find out about an incident of child abuse, and you know that others have already reported the incident to DCF, you must still report.
- If the child is in immediate danger, call 911 first, then report to DCF.
- If there is no immediate danger, complete your report to DCF. Then call FAUPD to alert them of your report (if the incident occurred on university property or during university sponsored events).

FAU POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Boca Raton Campus	Main: 561-297-3500 TDD: 561-297-2390
MacArthur Campus	Main: 561-799-8700 Duty Officer: 561-339-0015
Harbor Branch Campus	Main: 772-216-1124
Fort Lauderdale Campus	Main: 954-201-4357
Davie Campus	Main: 954-236-1140
SeaTech Campus	Main: 954-448-8530

- If the abuse is sexual in nature, you must also report to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Office, 561-297-3004 or 800-955-8771 (FL Relay System), to meet your Title IX reporting obligations.

When in Doubt—Report!

Let the Department of Child & Families tell you that a report is not necessary or that they are refusing your report and make them put that in writing.

If you report in good faith and end up being wrong, you are immune from criminal prosecution and civil liability.



Department of Child & Families Website: <https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/>

Department of Child & Families Abuse Hotline: 1-800-962-2873