

# CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS COLORADO

## CONTACTING THE 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 **Denver, Colorado** at **(303) 455-5522**.

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 County Department of Human or Social Services or the local police department should be made. The council should be contacted by leaving a message on the council service center answering machine.

## REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN COLORADO

The law says any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or acts of child abuse should report this information immediately to the County Department of Human or Social Services or local police department. Certain professions such as doctors, teachers, firemen, veterinarians, etc. are required by law to report any suspected child abuse to the County Department of Human or Social Services or the local police department.

From 9:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays, reports of child abuse and neglect can be made to the County Department of Human or Social Services or the local police department. There is at least one department office in every county. Some of these county agencies operate a 24-hour, seven day a week hotline, and your local police department can be reached by dialing 911.

County Departments of Human and Social Services and local police departments accepts all allegations of child abuse and neglect by telephone and in person from all sources, including identified sources, news media, anonymous sources, sources that have incomplete information, and referrals from the child or parent themselves.

Upon receiving a report of child abuse or neglect, a County Department of Human and Social Services caseworker or a local police officer shall investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

## IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY

Any person who, pursuant to the law, reports suspected abuse or neglect or testifies in a child abuse hearing resulting from such a report is immune from any criminal or civil liability as a result of such action.

## PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT

Any person who is **required** by law to report and knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect pursuant to the law or to comply with the provisions of the law is subject to a fine up to \$750 or up to six months imprisonment, or both.