Reporting Allegations of Suspected Child Abuse

Kentucky is a MANDATORY REPORTING state. If you suspect abuse or if a disclosure of abuse is made to you, you are REQUIRED to report to the appropriate authorities.

Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent, neglected or abused ***shall immediately*** make an oral or written report to local law enforcement, the Kentucky State Police, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, or to the Commonwealth's or county attorney. Professionals, including teachers and school personnel, who suspect abuse, must report the abuse regardless of who is suspected of causing the abuse. Likewise, suspected human trafficking of a child, as defined by *KRS 529.010*, must also be reported regardless of who is suspected of trafficking the child. *KRS 620.030(1) - (3)*

Professionals who have attended to the child as part of his or her professional duties shall, if requested, also within 48 hours of the original report, file a written report containing the following:

- Names and addresses of the child and his or her parents or other person exercising custodial control and supervision;
- The child's age;
- Nature and extent of the abuse including any previous charges to this child or his or her siblings;
- The name and address of the person allegedly responsible for the abuse; and
- Any other information that the person making the report believes may be helpful. *KRS 620.030(2)*

Anyone acting upon reasonable cause in the making of a report in good faith shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability. A report to a principal, even though it is school policy, is not a sufficient report to trigger statutory immunity. You must report to one of the state authorities listed in the statute in order to be immune from criminal liability. Any person who *intentionally* violates the provisions of KRS 620.030, the "duty to report" statute, shall be guilty of a:

- Class B misdemeanor for the first offense;
- Class A misdemeanor for the second offense; and
- Class D felony for each subsequent offense. *KRS 620.030(6)*

Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Child Protection Hot Line:

1-877-597-2331

CHFS Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Booklet: http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/0984FD14-A494-4055-9C10-98CDD433F8C9/0/ChildAbuseandNeglectBooklet.pdf

To find number of local law enforcement: http://www.usacops.com/ky/

Kentucky State Police Posts: http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/contact.html#post

To find local Commonwealth's or county attorney's offices:
http://ag.ky.gov/criminal/pac/Pages/attorneys.aspx

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