

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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 Allentown, PA at 610-264-8551

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 Childline and Abuse Registry at 1-800-932-0313 in PA should be made and to Division of Youth and Family Services at 1-800-792-8610 in NJ .The Scout executive, Tom Harrington, should be contacted by leaving a voice mail on his direct line at 610-465-8554. The "Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Form" should be submitted to the council.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY

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 Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS).

From 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM weekdays, reports of child abuse and neglect can be made to the local Offices of Children and Youth in Pennsylvania and the Division of Youth and Family Services in New Jersey. There is at least one District office of these agencies in every county. For reports call the county office at the following numbers: **Lehigh County** Office of Children and Youth 610-782-3200; Northampton County Emergency Services 610-252-9060; **Monroe County** Office of Children and Youth 570-420-3590; **Carbon County** Office of Children and Youth 570-325-3644; and **Luzerne County** Office of Children and Youth 570-454-9740. In the state of **New Jersey** call the Division of Youth and Family Services at 908-689-7000. Childline and Abuse Registry operates a toll-free 24-hour, seven-day-a-week hotline in PA at 1-800-932-0313 and the Division of Youth and Family Services in NJ at 1-800-792-8610 to receive reports of child abuse and neglect. Calls to these 800 numbers are immediately referred to the appropriate county office, and calls received after hours are referred to the Special Response Unit (SPRU).

Childline and DYFS accepts all allegations of child abuse or neglect. A case worker shall investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

IMMUNITY OF LIABILITY

Any person who, pursuant to the law, reports abuse and 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 knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect pursuant to the law or to comply with the provisions of the law is a disorderly person and subject to a fine up to \$1,000 or up to six months in jail or both.