

Legally speaking...

# Did you know?

November 2006  
Subject: Children

## CHILD ABUSE - MAKING A REPORT

The Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA) is the legislative authority for the Ministry of Children and Family Development's (MCFD) Child Protection Services. Under the Act, the Minister designates the Director of Child Protection, who in turn delegates the provision of child protection services across the province to child protection social workers.

### Whose responsibility is it to make a child abuse report?

Anyone who has reason to believe that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected has a legal duty under the CFCSA to report the matter.

### What happens when a report is made?

All reports of suspected abuse or neglect made to the Ministry either through their offices or the Helpline for Children will be thoroughly investigated.

The first step they will take in non-emergency reports is to talk to people in the community who know the family, such as school staff—to try to determine if the report sounds reasonable and if there might be further evidence of abuse.

Then the social worker will speak directly to the parent, the child involved if the child is old enough, and other family members. From the investigation, the social worker will decide on the best procedure to take.

To make a report of child abuse, contact the following numbers:

**Regular Hours:** Report to an MCFD office, or a First Nations child welfare agency that provides child protection services. Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, call your local district office (listed in the blue pages of your phone book).

### Emergency & After-Hours Contacts:

**The Helpline for Children:** To report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect, dial **310-1234 (no area code needed)** from anywhere in B.C.

### After-Hours Line:

For emergencies outside office hours (8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) call 24-hours at:

- Vancouver, the North Shore & Richmond: 604-660-4927
- Lower Mainland from Burnaby & Delta in the west to Maple Ridge and Langley in the east: 604-660-8180
- Rest of the province: 1-800-663-9122



North Shore  
Community Resources  
*Connecting You to Community Services!*