

## WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Children have the right to be protected and to be safe. Unfortunately, there are times when children in Newfoundland and Labrador are harmed or abused. Child abuse includes physical, sexual or emotional harm, living with violence or being left without adequate supervision.

- Physical abuse is any non-accidental physical force or action that harms a child.
- Sexual abuse is the inappropriate exposure of a child to sexual contact, activity or behavior.
- Emotional abuse is anything that causes mental or emotional harm to a child.

## PROTECTION OF THE CHILD IS THE FIRST CONCERN



## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I MAKE A REPORT?

A social worker will speak with you and take the information regarding your report. The social worker will then work with the family, police and community agencies to keep the child safe.

## DO COMMUNITIES HAVE A ROLE?

It is the community's responsibility to support the safety, health and well being of its children. Communities take a lead role in enhancing the overall wellness of children every day, when they foster an open and positive environment for children and create strong social support networks for families.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE?

In Newfoundland and Labrador it is everyone's responsibility to report any information dealing with child abuse. If you suspect that a child has been abused or if a child tells you that he/she has been abused, it is the law to report it immediately. See it. Report it. It's the law.

## HOW DO I REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE?

A child's life, health or well being may depend on your action. Early reporting makes early intervention possible. You must report suspected child abuse to your local Regional Health Authority or your local police.



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THE CHILD, YOUTH AND  
FAMILY SERVICES ACT

The *Child, Youth & Family Services Act* is the  
law which gives social workers the ability to  
protect children and youth under 16 years of age  
when there is a report of child abuse.

TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE CALL  
CHILD, YOUTH AND  
FAMILY SERVICES OR  
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POLICE:

**Eastern Regional Health Authority**  
(709) 752-4238  
After Hours (709) 752-4619

**Central Regional Health Authority**  
(709) 292-1210  
After Hours (709) 292-2500

**Western Regional Health Authority**  
(709) 637-2686  
After Hours (709) 632-1577

**Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority**  
(709) 896-9170  
After Hours (709) 897-2000

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SOPHIE | ABUSED CHILD

Child abuse is physical harm, emotional harm,  
sexual harm, living with violence and being left  
without adequate supervision.

Do you know a child like this?

