

Note: Revised as of 1/22/2010

This revised update supersedes all others.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

LOCAL PROCEDURE ON THE REPORTING OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

It is the policy of Boy Scouts of America that the Scout Executive be notified so that he can take the appropriate action in ensuring that, when necessary, individuals that should not be working with children be excluded from our membership ranks. In all cases of suspected child abuse notify the Scout Executive immediately. An e-mail sent to jggraham@bsaemail.org will reach the Scout Executive, Greg Graham, immediately. The Scout Executive's phone# is (239) 936-8072 or (800) 269-8072 extension 102. A message can be left 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but is normally checked between 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Florida Statutes 39.201 contains the requirement for reports of child abuse or neglect. This law provides that **“Any person...who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is an abused or neglected child shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department...”** This is done by contacting the Child Abuse Registry (800) 962-2873 (96ABUSE), or TDD 1-800-453-5145, Fax 800-914-0004, or web http://state.fl.us/cf_web. Please leave your name and phone number.

Florida Law also provides that the name of the informant is confidential unless testimony is required from that individual. Further, F.S. 39.203 (1)(a) provides for immunity from civil or criminal liability for making a report when that report is made in good faith.

General Definitions: "Abuse" means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual injury or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of a child includes acts or omissions. Corporal discipline of a child by a parent or legal custodian for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse when it does not result in harm to the child.

1. Inflicts or allows someone else to inflict physical or mental injury, injury as a result of inappropriate or excessively harsh disciplinary action.
2. Commits or allows to be committed a sexual battery or sexual abuse of the child.
3. Exploits the child or allows the child to be exploited by employing or using the child in a manner to cause the child to suffer or who inflicts unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering or causes the life of the child to be endangered or his health to be injured or to be put in danger.
4. Leaving a child without adult supervision or arrangement appropriate for the child's age or mental or physical condition, so that the child is unable to care for the child's own needs or another's basic needs or is unable to exercise good judgment in responding to any kind of physical or emotional crisis.
5. Fails to provide supervision or guardianship that require the intervention of the Department of Children and Family or the local Sheriff's Department in the council territory.
6. Mental injury is an injury to the intellectual or psychological capacity of a child as evidenced by a discernible and substantial impairment in his ability to function within his normal range of performance and behavior.
7. Physical injury means death, burns or scalding, permanent or temporary disfigurement, cuts, lacerations, punctures, or bites, or impairment of any bodily part.