

HOW DO I RESPOND TO A CHILD WHO DISCLOSES?

Do:

- believe the child
- find a private place to talk
- reassure the child that he/she has done the right thing by reporting
- Listen to the child; rephrase important thoughts—use the child's vocabulary
- Tell the child help is available
- Let the child know you must report to someone who can help him/her
- Report the incident immediately to local Child Protective Services
- Seek out your own support system

Don't:

- Promise confidentiality
- Panic or express shock
- Ask leading or suggestive questions
- Make negative comments about perpetrator
- Disclose information indiscriminately

CONTACTS & PHONE NUMBERS:

Child Abuse Hotline

Contact: 24 hours a day

Phone: 1-800-252-5400 (All reports of suspected abuse or neglect must go through this number)

Department of Protective & Regulatory Services (Child Protective Services)

Contact: Austin office/8-5 (M-F)

Phone: 512/834-3202

Local Law Enforcement Agency

Contact: Child Abuse Unit

Phone: 512/834-3890

If you know or suspect that a child is being abused, it is your legal obligation to report this information. No one else can do this for you!