

## **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that child abuse is occurring shall report such information to the Department of Human Services. The information may be based on physical and behavioral indicators as well as other sources of knowledge. The report and identity of the party and reporter are confidential except when the court in which the testimony is filed, in its discretion, determines the testimony of the person reporting to be material to a judicial proceeding.

Child abuse should be suspected when a child shows such physical signs as bruises, scars or burns, has injuries which might have resulted from being beaten, or shows other indicators of cruel and abusive treatment.

Child neglect exists when a child is discovered to be in any one or combination of these situations: (1) abandoned; (2) poorly clothed, malnourished or ill-fed; (3) ill without medical attention; (4) overworked or otherwise exploited; and (5) lacking love, care, guidance, and protection.

Any attorney, physician, dentist, intern, resident, nurse, psychologist, social worker, child care giver, minister, law enforcement officer, school attendance officer, public school district employee, nonpublic school employee, or any other person participating in the making of a required report pursuant to Section 43-21-353 or participating in the judicial proceeding resulting therefrom shall be presumed to be acting in good faith. Any person or institution reporting in good faith shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi  
LEGAL REF: Section 43-21-353, and 43-21-355; Miss. Code of 1972  
DATE: July 21, 1986  
AMENDED: July 16, 1990  
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