

# CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

## REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN PIKES PEAK COUNCIL, BSA, COLORADO

Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or acts of child abuse can report this information immediately to the Department of Human Services (DHS) or the local law enforcement agency. If you do not have the number for the agency where the incident occurred, dial 911 for emergency assistance. Pikes Peak Council strongly encourages anyone with reasonable cause to believe a child has been or is being abused to notify the authorities.

Reports of child abuse and neglect can also be made to the local DHS district office. There is at least one district office in every county (refer to list below). The Department of Human Services operates a toll-free, 24-hour, seven-day-a-week hotline in every county to receive reports of child abuse and neglect.

DHS accepts all allegations of child abuse and neglect by telephone and in person from all sources, including identified sources, news media, anonymous sources, sources that have incomplete information, and referrals from the child or parent themselves.

Upon receiving a report of child abuse or neglect, a DHS caseworker may investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

## IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY

According to Colorado Revised Statute **19-3-309. Immunity from liability - persons reporting**, any person who, "participating in good faith in the making of a report," reports abuse or neglect or testifies in a child abuse hearing resulting from such a report is immune from any criminal or civil liability as a result of such action.

## CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

If an allegation of child abuse occurs, the Boy Scouts require immediate notification of a Scout Executive. The local DHS or law enforcement agency should also be notified at that time. The local Scout Executive should be notified by calling (719) 634-1584 and leaving a message if after hours.

The Scout Executive will ensure that all state reporting requirements have been met and will also take measures to protect the youth in the Scouting movement.

## SEVEN COUNTY HOT LINE NUMBERS FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE (OR CALL 911)

El Paso	444-5700
Teller	687-3335 x3024
Cheyenne	767-5629
Kit Carson	346-8732
Lincoln	743-2404
Park	836-2771
Elbert	541-2369