

When to report abuse?



Each of us have a responsibility for the welfare of children. We all share a responsibility to protect children and youth from harm. That responsibility extends to those situations where children and youth suffer abuse and neglect in their own homes. Ontario's Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) provides protection for these children.

Who is a “child or youth in need of protection”?

A child in need of protection is a child or youth who is or who appears to be suffering from abuse and/or neglect.

Who is responsible for reporting a child or youth in need of protection?

Anyone who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or youth is or may be in need of protection must promptly report the suspicion and the information upon which it is based to their local Children's Aid Society (CAS).

What are “reasonable grounds” to suspect child abuse or neglect?

It is not necessary for you to be certain a child or youth is or may be in need of protection to make a report to the CAS. “Reasonable grounds” refers to the information that an average person, exercising normal and honest judgment, would need in order to make a decision to report.

What is the age of the children to whom the “duty to report” applies?

The duty to report applies to any child who is, or appears to be, under the age of 16 years. It also applies to children subject to a child protection order who are 16 and 17 years old.

Can I rely on someone else to reply?

No. You have to report directly to the CAS. You must not rely on anyone else to report on your behalf.