

Child Abuse

Look for the signs

Dial 1-800-96-ABUSE

Signs of Physical Abuse

The child may have unexplained:

- bruises, welts, cuts, or other injuries
- broken bones
- burns

A child experiencing physical abuse may:

- seem withdrawn or depressed
- seem afraid to go home or may run away
- shy away from physical contact
- be aggressive
- wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries

Signs of Sexual Abuse

The child may have:

- torn, stained or bloody underwear
- trouble walking or sitting
- pain or itching in genital area
- a sexually transmitted disease

A child experiencing sexual abuse may:

- have unusual knowledge of sex or act seductively
- fear a particular person
- seem withdrawn or depressed
- gain or lose weight suddenly
- shy away from physical contact
- run away from home

Signs of Neglect

The child may have:

- unattended medical needs
- little or no supervision at home
- poor hygiene
- appear underweight

A child experiencing neglect may:

- be frequently tired or hungry
- steal food
- appear overly needy for adult attention

Look for the Patterns

Serious abuse usually involves a combination of factors. While a single sign may not be significant, a pattern of physical or behavioral signs is a serious indicator and should be reported.

If a child tells YOU about abuse:

Be a good listener. Show that you understand and believe what the child tells you. Encourage, but don't pressure him/her to talk. Ask open ended questions.

Be supportive. Tell the child he/she did the right thing by coming to you. Stress that he/she is not to blame. Let the child know that you want to help.

Don't overreact. This can frighten the child or prevent him/her from telling you more. Do not talk negatively about the suspected abuser in front of the child.

Document and report it. Document your conversation as soon as you can. If possible, write down the child's exact words.

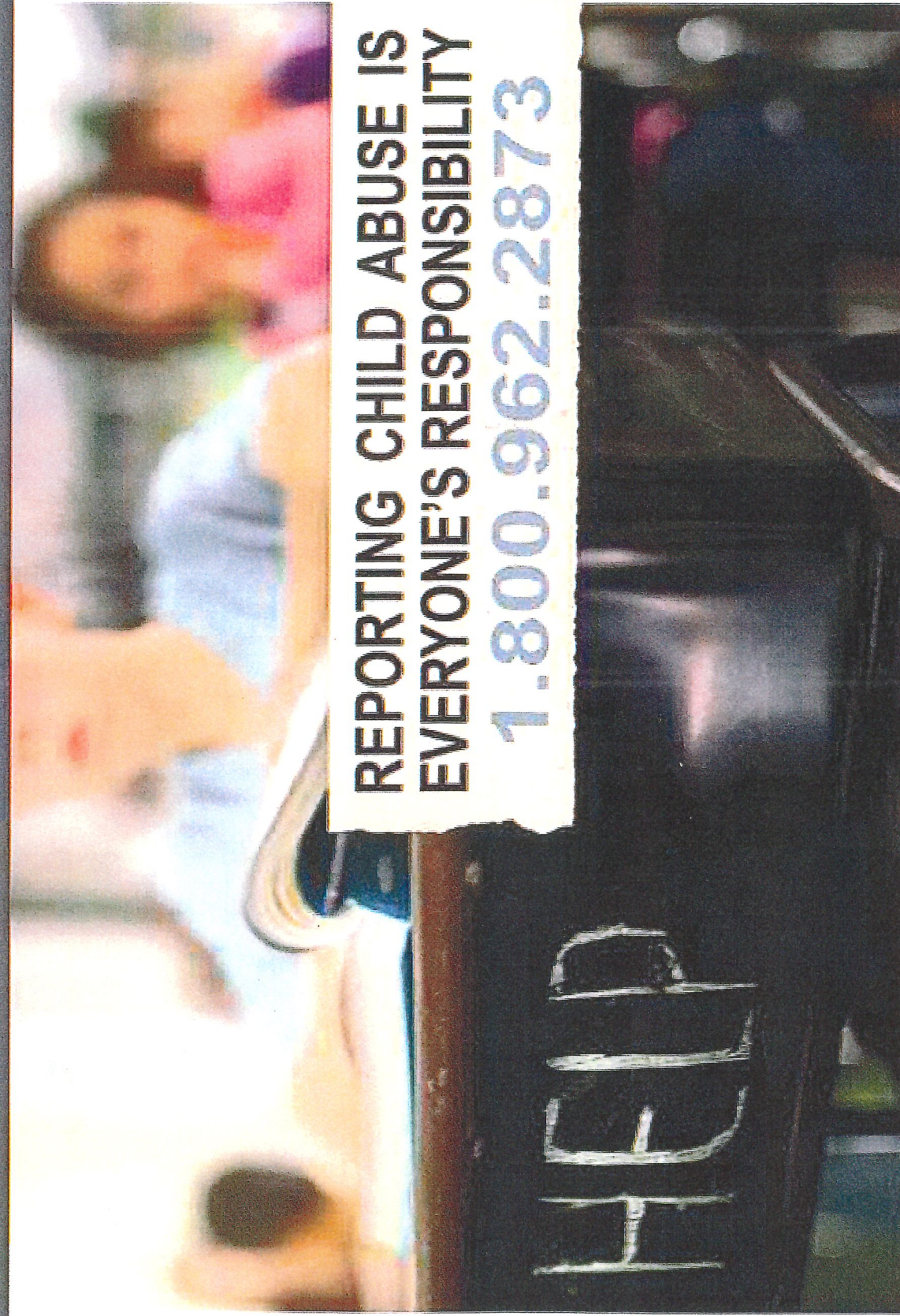
Don't delay. Never assume someone else will report the abuse. The sooner it's reported, the sooner the child and their family can be helped.

WHO MUST REPORT ABUSE?

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Police Officers
- Child Care Workers
- Any Witnesses
- Any/All School Personnel

Call or Report it online at:

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/>



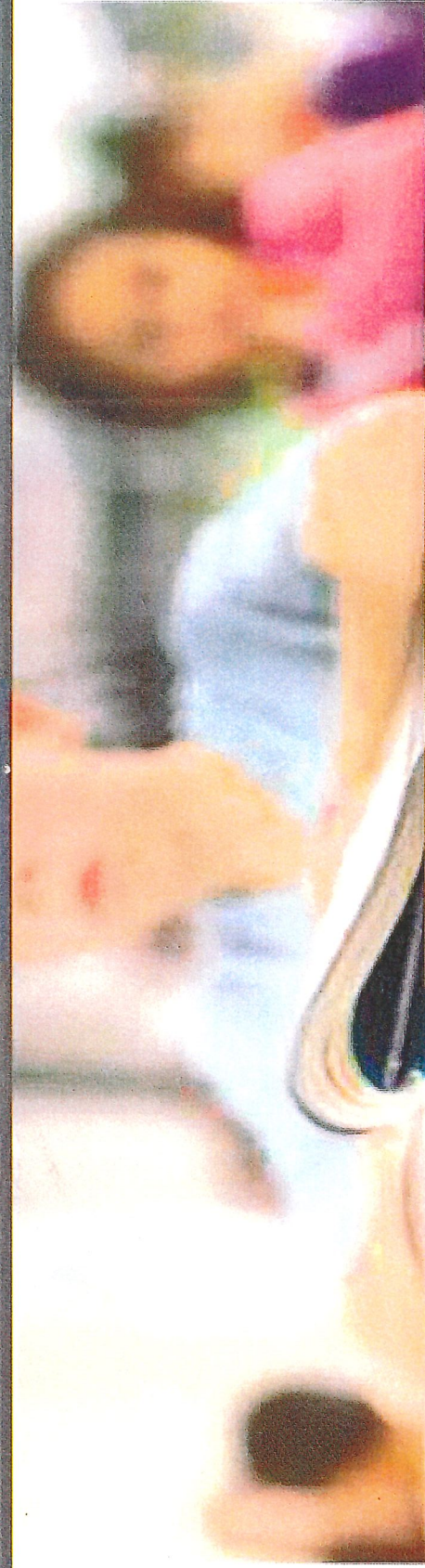
**REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IS
EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY
1.800.962.2873**

Every year in Florida, thousands of children are subjected to child abuse, which can take the form of physical or sexual abuse, neglect, abandonment or mental injury. Too many continue to suffer because the abuse is never reported. Under Florida law, anyone who suspects a child may be abused or neglected has a responsibility to report it.

Signs that a child may be a victim of abuse:

- Unusual fearfulness
- Sleep disorders, bed-wetting
- Lack of hygiene or inappropriate dress
- Lack of eye contact, poor socialization
- Delayed emotional, intellectual or language development
- Acting out in school
- Frequent injuries
- Unexplained scars or bruises
- Feeding disorders
- Malnutrition
- Rocking, self-inflicted pain
- Many school absences

CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES
How to report abuse:
Telephone 1.800.962.2873
Fax 1.800.914.0004 TDD 1.800.453.5145
Online at www.MvFlFamilies.com



**ES RESPONSABILIDAD DE TODOS
REPORTAR EL ABUSO INFANTIL**

1.800.962.2873

HELP

Cada año en Florida, miles de niños son víctimas de abuso infantil, el cual puede tomar la forma de abuso físico o sexual, negligencia, abandono o maltrato mental. Muchos continúan sufriendo debido a que el abuso nunca se reportó. Según la ley de Florida, cualquier persona que sospeche del abuso o negligencia de un niño tiene la responsabilidad de reportarlo.

Señales de abuso:

- Temor inusual
- Falta de higiene o vestimenta inapropiada
- Lesiones frecuentes
- Retraso en el desarrollo emocional, intelectual o del lenguaje
- Trastornos de alimentación
- Mecerse, dolor autoinfligido
- Trastornos del sueño, orinarse en la cama
- Ausencia de contacto visual, poca socialización
- Mal comportamiento en la escuela
- Cicatrices y moretones sin explicación
- Malnutrición
- Muchas ausencias escolares

LLAME AL 911 PARA EMERGENCIAS

Cómo reportar el abuso:

Teléfono 1.800.962.2873 Fax 1.800.914.0004

TDD (para sordomudos) 1.800.453.5145

En línea en www.MvFLFamilies.com