

## **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### **CONTACTING THE THREE FIRES COUNCIL**

The “Youth Protection Guidelines” of the Boy Scouts of America and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) require immediate reporting of the suspected abuse of a child. The current policy for after-hours notifications is to wait until the next business day and call the Scout office in St. Charles, Illinois at 630-584-9250.

The Director of Field Service, James R. Lakeman II, will ensure that all state reporting requirements have been met and will also take measures to protect the youth in the Scouting movement.

If an immediate report is to be made due to extreme urgency, contact the Department of Children and Family Services at: **(1-800-252-2873)**. The council should be contacted by leaving a message on the council service center answering machine. You are cautioned not to launch an investigation of the alleged incident(s) of child abuse or neglect. Simply write down the facts known to you which give rise to the suspicion and call the Three Fires Council’s Director of Field Service, James R. Lakeman II (630-797-4610) and report your suspicions immediately.

### **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN ILLINOIS**

The law says any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or acts of child abuse shall report this information immediately to the Department of Children and family Services (DCFS).

Reports of child abuse and neglect can be made to the Child Abuse Hotline. Their 24-hour, seven-day-a-week number is **1-800-252-2873**.

DCFS 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 abuse or neglect, a DCFS caseworker shall investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

### **IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY**

Any person who, pursuant to the law, reports abuse and 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.

### **PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT**

Any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect pursuant to the law or to comply with the provisions of the law is a disorderly person and subject to a fine up to \$1,000 or up to six months imprisonment, or both.