

Reporting suspected child abuse or neglect is the right thing to do

If a person has reasonable grounds for suspecting abuse or neglect they **must personally make a report**

You are responsible for reporting concerns not for proving abuse or neglect

By making a report you are allowing the **appropriate authorities to determine the risk in each situation** and the kind of support and service needed to keep children safe

Everyone has a role to play in **protecting children**

You can contact a Children's Aid anonymously

If you choose to provide a name it **will not be released** to the family involved

If you suspect a child is at risk of abuse or neglect as a result of living under any of the following conditions, please call Children's Aid:

- Domestic violence
- Substance abuse by a caregiver
- Mental health problems of a caregiver
- Abandonment of a child

Call Children's Aid if you are concerned for a child. Visit **www.oacas.org/childwelfare/locate.htm** to find your local agency

Reporting child abuse: What is the duty to report?

The saying "it takes a village to raise a child" is never more true than when we talk about protecting children. Keeping the most vulnerable members of our community safe is the responsibility of everyone. If you have any reason to believe that a child is in need of protection or is at risk of harm, make the call to Children's Aid.

Talking about child abuse is hard. But not as hard as seeing or suspecting that a child is being abused. If you have reasonable grounds to suspect a child is in need of help, you need to make the call. It isn't up to you to prove or investigate the abuse but it is up to you to reach out and help protect the child.

It is a basic human right to be free of harm and this especially applies to children. It is our job as adults to step up and protect all of the children in our community.



**Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies**

The voice of child welfare in Ontario