



Iron County  
Children's  
Justice  
Center

"A PLACE WHERE SMALL VOICES ARE HEARD"

# Children's Justice Center

## Mission

To provide a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, nonprofit, intergovernmental response to: Sexual abuse of children, physical abuse of children and other crimes involving children where the child is a primary victim or a critical witness, such as drug-related child endangerment cases, in a safe, neutral, child-focused setting.

## Purpose

To coordinate and track investigation, related medical service, prosecution, treatment, and training in order to protect the best interests of the child and the community, and to support the professionals who investigate and prosecute cases.



NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE®

ACCREDITED  
MEMBER

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For more information, please visit  
<http://cjc.ironcounty.net/>

## 10 Questions Frequently Asked by Personnel...

1. To whom do I report suspected abuse?
2. Can I report the abuse to my supervisor and they can take care of it?
3. What should I have ready when making the referral?
4. Will "they" tell the parents I made the referral?
5. What should I do if I have more information after my initial report?
6. What should I do if I feel the report was not handled correctly?
7. Why should I make reports?
8. Will I be held liable for reporting child abuse?
9. What happens if I make a report and "nothing happens"?
10. To whom can I speak if I have questions about an abusive situation?



## Answers to FAQ's

1. Two agencies are responsible for investigating child abuse cases: Law Enforcement and Child Protective Services (CPS). You may make the report to either agency.
2. The Supervisor needs to be aware that a report is being made. However, the person receiving information from the child or person(s) who has reason to suspect abuse **must make the referral**. **Firsthand** information is vital for child abuse cases. You may make the referral together, but if **you** receive the information, **you** need to make the referral.
3. You will need the child's name, birth date, address, parent's name, etc. You will be asked to provide information as to why you believe the child is being abused. The information you provide will help the agency build a case of child abuse. You do not need to be the investigator just need to get the who, what, when, and how information. Documentation is vital in a child abuse investigation.
4. Every precaution is taken to help keep any and all information on child abuse cases confidential. Personally identifiable information should not become public record. (Utah Code 62A-4A-412(2)). You may make the referral anonymously but it will restrict the investigators in gathering important information.
5. Even if there is an open case, do not assume the CPS or Law Enforcement knows that more abuse has occurred. Report any additional information to CPS or Law Enforcement. In many cases, the agency is building a case for the child and will need additional information to substantiate abuse. Any information you provide is important to the case of the child. If you have the caseworker's name and phone number contact them first. If you do not have that information, give report to the intake worker.
6. Cases are generally handled on a local level and it is suggested you first contact the caseworker. For problems related to a local law enforcement investigation call the department intake. If there is no resolution you may also contact in the following order: 1) The Supervisor in Child Protective Services, 2) the Associate Director for each region and finally, 3) the Director of each region. Child Protective Services provides Constituent Services in Salt Lake City (1-800-868-6413) that can be notified of the improper handling of cases.
7. **BECAUSE IT IS THE LAW**. Anyone suspecting child abuse has a duty to report it immediately to CPS or Law Enforcement. But also remember, child abuse can be a never-ending chain of inappropriate treatment of a child. **It will only stop if intervention takes place**. By reporting child abuse you help the child and the perpetrator. Your report and your interest in a child will help the child now and in his or her future.
8. As a mandated reporter, you are protected by state law. The law states that if you make a report, in "good faith" you will be immune from any civil or criminal liability.
9. Sometimes it is difficult to know what happens behind the scenes. Legal restrictions prohibit DCFS from relaying details of an investigation. For the most part, children will be interviewed at school, home, or the Children's Justice Center. It is the hope and intention of child welfare agencies, workers, and law enforcement to do their part in helping children. However, any aid or information you can provide will be helpful. Be aware that your support and interest in the child may be the best and most effective way the message of "we care" can be communicated. Never give up on a child and his or her future. Keep reporting even if it doesn't seem like "they" are doing anything.
10. There are many resources in your community willing to provide information and referrals for you. Call DCFS or Law Enforcement intake to serve as a consultant about case circumstances and if information needs to be reported.

