

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 5: General Case Management Section 26: Duty to Report Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N)	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 2

POLICY OVERVIEW

In Indiana, anyone who thinks a child is being abused or neglected must report it. This includes people who work for the Department of Child Services (DCS). If someone reports child abuse and/or neglect (CA/N) because they truly believe something is wrong (in good faith), they are protected from any civil or criminal liability, even if it turns out they were wrong.

POLICY STATEMENT

If a DCS Family Case Manager (FCM) sees or hears about new child abuse or neglect while doing their job, they must report it right away to the DCS Child Abuse Hotline (Hotline). They should not handle it as a part of the current case if one is open. See policies 3.08 and 4.38.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-33-5: Duty to Report Child Abuse or Neglect](#)
- [IC 31-33-8-1: Investigations by the department of child services; time of initiation; investigations of child care ministries](#)
- [IC 31-33-22-1: Failure to make report](#)