

What is a Mandated Reporter?

Mandated reporters are people who have regular contact with vulnerable people and therefore are legally required to ensure a report is made when abuse is observed or suspected.

What should you do if you have observed or suspect abuse at a StreetReach site?

Step 1: Complete an “Heads Up” form located on the StreetReach truck.

Step 2: Turn the “Heads Up” form in to your Site Pastor.

Step 3: The Site Pastor will turn the form into the church office and mark on their ministry report that an “Heads Up” form was completed.

Step 4: The pastoral staff will review the form and determine if the situation will require reporting to DFACS.

Step 5: Someone will call you and let you know what decisions have been made regarding your observations.

Things to remember:

- A child may not understand what has happened to them. Remember they are children and should be spoken to like children.
- A child may tell you something in confidence. You should never tell a child that you will not tell anyone. Never promise a child you will keep a secret.
- Do not tell people that do not need to know, The child may need someone to trust.
- Remember a child may have a difficult time speaking about abuse. In some cases someone may have threatened harm to the child or their family. Never pressure a child to speak about suspected abuse.
- A child may be embarrassed about abuse or feel the abuse is their fault.
- Always remind a child that you still care about them and that what they tell you will never change how you feel about them.