

***Take Action . . . Protecting
Children from Abuse and
Neglect is Everyone's
Responsibility***



**To report that a child
is being abused or
neglected and to
get help from Child
Protective Services,
call 240-777-4417**

***Reporting Is Available
24 Hours a Day
7 Days a Week***

**OTHER RESOURCES FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Montgomery County Crisis Center
240-777-4000**

*Crisis assessments and treatment referrals
for psychiatric and other crises.*

**Family Justice Center
240-773-0444**

Services for families affected by domestic violence.

**Special Victims Investigations Division
Montgomery County Police
240-773-5400**

**To request training about child abuse and neglect
and how to report it, call 240-777-3357.
For information on becoming a foster parent
in Montgomery County, call 240-777-1664.**



MARC ELRICH
Montgomery County Executive

RAYMOND CROWEL
DHHS Director

LISA MERKIN
CWS Administrator

Alternative formats of this brochure are available
upon request. Call 240-777-3558 or Maryland Relay
711.

Montgomery County
Department of Health and Human Services
401 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs



Under the Mandate of the
Maryland Department of Human Resources

Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Health and Human Services
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

**CHILD ABUSE
AND NEGLECT
RECOGNIZE IT
– REPORT IT**



***Building a healthy, safe and strong
community one person at a time***

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

Physical Abuse is injury caused to a child by a parent or caregiver.

- Examples may include bruises, welts, bite marks, burns and, in serious cases, fractures, head trauma and internal injuries.

Neglect is failure of a parent or caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs.

- Examples may include food, clothing, medical care, hygiene, exposure to domestic violence or inadequate supervision.

Sexual Abuse is when a family or household member molests or sexually exploits a child.

- Examples may include touching, fondling, kissing, exposing children to sexual topics or nudity and sex/human trafficking.
- It is important to listen to children when they tell you about sexual abuse.

Mental Injury is significant mental or psychological impairment to a child caused by parents' actions or inactions.

Our mission is to protect children, preserve families, strengthen communities and ensure permanency for every abused and neglected child in Montgomery County.



***There is help
for abused and
neglected children***

Child Protective Services (CPS) reports can be made anonymously. We protect your confidentiality if you do provide your name.

Please be prepared to provide all information that you know about the family and the alleged maltreater:

- Name, home address and phone number
- Ages or dates of birth for the children
- Language spoken in the home
- Description of the suspected abuse or neglect

Professionals (such as teachers and medical professionals) can face punishment for failing to report suspected abuse or neglect.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY REPORT?

The social worker receiving your report will listen to your concerns and decide if the report meets the legal criteria to open a case. If the report does not meet the criteria for CPS intervention, the social worker may refer you to other agencies that can help the family.

If the case is forwarded for a CPS response, it will be assigned to a social worker who will contact the family and talk with the child about their needs.

The family's right to privacy is extremely important; CPS does not share the report or the outcome of an investigation with anyone, including the individual making the call.

The goals of CPS are to protect the child and to keep the family together whenever possible. Removing children from their homes is traumatic and only done when the child cannot safely remain in their home.

NON DISCRIMINATION LAW

The law in Montgomery County Maryland (Chapter 27 Montgomery County Code) prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, presence of children, age, disability or source of income.

DON'T WAIT!

Please make a report as soon as you suspect a child has been abused or neglected, do not wait until you know for sure. Waiting for proof may place the child at risk of further abuse or neglect.

240-777-4417