



Reporting child abuse

Northern Territory

Action

Who is required to report?

In the Northern Territory, any person who believes that a child is being, or has been, abused or neglected is required by law to report their concerns. This includes paid employees and volunteers who are involved with child in sport.

You don't have to have proof. You only need to report your concerns.

What gets reported?

Any reasonable suspicion of harm against a child (e.g. neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse).

Where to make a report

Reports should be made to the Northern Territory Department of Children and Families Child Protection Branch 24 hour Centralised Intake Service by using the free-call phone number: **1800 700 250**.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or in a life-threatening situation, contact the Police immediately by dialling **000**.

Legislation

Current legislation

The Department of Children and Families Child Protection Branch has primary responsibility for implementing the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007*. This Act provides for the protection and care of children and the promotion of family welfare.

In addition, since 1 July 2011, it is mandatory for people who have contact or potential contact with children in [certain specified areas of employment](#) to hold a Working with

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Children Clearance Notice. More information is available from the [Working with Children website](#).

Who is legislatively required to implement child-safe environments?

It is everybody's responsibility to implement and maintain child-safe environments. We all have a role to play in keeping children safe and promoting well being.

Good practices

Establishing a child-safe environment

It is good practice to put strategies in place to prevent offenders from gaining access to your organisation and reducing opportunities for abuse.

Child-safe environment strategies are put in place to prevent and minimise opportunities for child abuse within your organisation, including preventing offenders from gaining access to children through your organisation.

An important strategy in developing child-safe environments is staff development:

- **Ensuring** that all staff (paid and volunteers) understand their mandatory and/or ethical reporting obligations for suspected child abuse and/or neglect.
- **Ensuring** all staff have a clear understanding of what is acceptable/ unacceptable behaviour and know who to contact about concerns they may have.

Organisations working to create child-safe environments and strengthen their environment are committed to and understand the importance of children's safety.

Resources

Where can I get further information or resources?

- [Northern Territory Department of Children and Families](#)
- [Child Wise – “Choose With Care: 12 Steps to a Child Safe Organisation”](#)