If anyone in Nebraska witnesses or suspects that a child has been physically or sexually abused or neglected they must report it promptly by law. If it is an emergency call 911 immediately. If you know it is not an emergency call the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

**Abuse/Neglect Hotline:**
**1-800-652-1999**

What is Abuse and Neglect?

Abuse is defined in three ways:

1. Physical abuse exists when a child has a non-accidental injury.
2. Emotional abuse exists when parents always put blame on a child or always reject the child.
3. Sexual abuse exists when an adult uses a child as a part of any type of sexual act.

Neglect is defined in two ways.

1. Emotional neglect is when the child suffers from the parent's not giving them chances for feeling loved, wanted, secure, and worthy.
2. Physical neglect is when a parent does not provide basic needs or a safe place to live. Examples are:
	* not having enough food or clothing;
	* not following doctor's orders;
	* not providing the supervision needed to keep the child safe;
	* not having heat in the winter.

**What Can I Expect if I Report Someone for Abuse?**

You are not required to give your name. You will be asked to give your name so that, if necessary, the Protection and Safety Worker can get more information later. As long as the report is in good faith, you are not liable. Your report is confidential. Your name can only be given to law enforcement or a court of law.

The Department will investigate all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect that meet the screening criteria. The Department and police work together on reports and the police may also do an investigation. Due to the confidential nature of the investigation, the person who reports the abuse cannot be informed of the action taken or the result of the report.

***Information provided by Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services -***[***http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/cha/chaindex.htm***](http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/cha/chaindex.htm)