



## **LAST FRONTIER COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

Gaylord Scout Center ♦ 3031 N.W. 64th Street ♦ Oklahoma City, OK 73116 ♦ (405) 840-1114

OKC Fax (405) 840-1652 ♦ OKC Toll Free (888) 841-1114

Laura Fields Scout Center ♦ 620 Cache Road ♦ Lawton, OK 73507 ♦ (580) 357-3633

Lawton Fax (580) 357-3635 ♦ Lawton Toll Free (888) 357-3633

### **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

#### **CONTACTING THE COUNCIL**

The Boy Scouts require a Scout executive's notification whenever information about possible child abuse in the Boy Scout program is uncovered. The current policy for after-hours notifications is to wait until the next business day and call the Scout Service Center in Oklahoma City at (405) 840-1114 or (888) 841-1114, ext. 274.

The Scout executive will ensure that all state reporting requirements have been met and will also take measures to protect the youth in the Scouting movement.

The "Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Form" should be completed and submitted to the council.

Contact with the Child Abuse Hotline should be made: (1-800-522-3511).

#### **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN OKLAHOMA**

The law says any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or acts of child abuse shall report this information immediately to the Department of Human Services in the County where the suspected injury occurred.

From 9:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays, reports of child abuse and neglect can be made to the local Department of Human Services (DHS) county office. There is at least one district office in every county. The Department of Human Services operates a toll-free, 24-hour, seven-day-a-week hotline (1-800-522-3511) to receive reports of child abuse and neglect. Calls received at DHS during normal working hours are immediately referred to the appropriate district office, and calls received after hours are referred to the Special Response Unit (SPRU).

DHS accepts all allegations of child abuse and neglect by telephone and in person from all sources, including identified sources, news media, anonymous sources, sources that have incomplete information, and referrals from the child or parent themselves.

Upon receiving a report of child abuse or neglect, a DHS caseworker shall investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

#### **IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY**

Any person who, pursuant to the law, reports abuse and neglect or testifies in a child abuse hearing resulting from such a report is immune from any criminal or civil liability as a result of such action.

#### **PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT**

Any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect pursuant to the law or to comply with the provisions of the law may be reported by the Department of Human Services to local law enforcement for criminal investigation and, upon conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine up to \$500 or up to one year's imprisonment, or both.