

When a Child Discloses:



Listen, Stay Calm & Share Next Steps:

Listen carefully and believe the child

Do not express disbelief, judgement or have an emotional reaction.

Let the child know what will happen next, be honest.



Reassure child with positive statements:

"You did the right thing by telling me."

"I'm sorry that happened to you."

"What happened is not your fault."



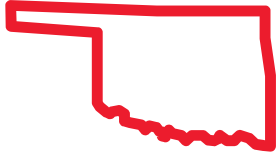
Questions to ask when a child discloses:

"You CAN ask questions to determine:

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, & WHERE.

Do not probe for more detail than necessary or ask the child to repeat their disclosure.

MANDATED REPORTING LAW



Oklahoma state law requires **ANY PERSON** who has reason to believe a child is abused, or is in danger of being abused, to immediately report suspicion of abuse to the police or DHS.

- EVERYONE in Oklahoma over the age of 18 is a mandated reporter.
- Reporters are NOT required to have proof, only reasonable suspicion.
- A reporter's identity is kept confidential.
- Suspicions **MUST** be reported to DHS and/or law enforcement. Reporting internally does **NOT** absolve you of responsibility.
- Persons making a report in good faith are protected from liability.
- Failure to report is a criminal offense.

TO REPORT ANY SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN OKLAHOMA, CALL THE STATEWIDE DHS HOTLINE

1-800-522-3511

OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

IF YOU BELIEVE A CHILD IS IN IMMINENT DANGER - CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY BY DIALING 9-1-1