LAFAYETTE
CHILD
PROTECTION
CENTER

Address:
c/o Lafayette Charity Hospital
311 West St. Mary Blvd.
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

24-Hour Reporting Number
234-1423
WHAT IS AN ABUSED CHILD?

A child who has been physically, sexually, or mentally injured or who has been exploited or overworked to such an extent that his health, moral or emotional well-being is endangered is an abused child.

A child is neglected when those legally responsible for his care and maintenance fail to provide the proper or necessary support, education as required by law or medical, surgical or other care necessary for his well-being.

Half the number of abused children are under three years of age. Medical treatment, if any, has been rare and therefore the abused has not been immediately detected.

HOW CAN THE CHILD PROTECTION CENTER HELP?

The center has the following objectives:

1. To prevent separation of parents and child whenever possible.
2. To prevent the placement of children in institutions.
3. To encourage the attainment of self-care status on the part of the parents.
4. To stimulate the attainment of self-sufficiency for the family unit.
5. To prevent further abuse or neglect by removing children from families who show an unwillingness or inability to profit from treatment programs.

REPORTING PROCEDURE

1. If you have knowledge of a case of child abuse, whether actual or suspected, please call 234-1423.
2. Your report will be handled discreetly and forwarded to the center for investigation and the necessary follow-up.
3. It is the responsibility of anyone who knows of or has cause to suspect abuse/neglect to report it to the Child Protection Center.
4. Professionals such as licensed physicians, interns, residents, nurses, hospital staff members, teachers, social workers or other agency persons particularly have this responsibility.
5. Any persons making abuse/neglect reports in good faith shall have immunity from civil or criminal liability.

LOUISIANA ACT 384 of 1974

1. Requiring reporting of child abuse/neglect cases.
2. Providing immunity of reporter.
3. Providing waiver of certain privileged communication.
4. Providing method of investigation and/or reporting of these reports.
5. Providing a central statewide registry (a system for gathering data) of these reports.
6. Setting penalties when the above is not required.

FACTS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE

In 1973 an estimated 1.5 million cases of child abuse/neglect occurred in the United States.

Interpolated for Louisiana, these figures indicate that approximately 170,400 children are abused annually in our own state with one or two dying each two weeks.

In 1975 the Louisiana Central Registry (a data gathering system on child abuse neglect) listed approximately 1,755 valid abuse/neglect reports in the state.

Yet, students of the problem tell us that the majority of cases are never reported.
Since its opening in May, 1975 to December 10, 1976, the Lafayette Child Protection Center has processed over 170 valid abuse or abuse and neglect cases. In addition, 92 complaints involving only neglect were received and referred to the Protective Service Units of the Office of Family Services in the surrounding parishes.

**WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE?**

A. Bruises  
B. Scars  
C. Punctures  
D. Repeated and unusual injuries  
E. Burns to the skin

**PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE:**

A. Withdrawn and fearful of adults  
B. Hyperactive  
C. Over friendly  
D. Attention-seeking

**SOME SYMPTOMS OF NEGLECT ARE:**

A. Malnutrition  
B. Poor skin care  
C. Severe sunburn  
D. Chronic infections  
E. Inappropriate school performance  
F. Abandonment

The Lafayette Child Protection Center is administered by the Office of Family Services of the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources.