

Georgia's mandated Reporter Law Includes all Boy Scout Volunteers

The Georgia mandated reporting law was expanded to include volunteers working for child serving organizations which would include Boy Scout Volunteers.

The law states that any volunteer "having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall report or cause reports of that abuse to be made". This report must be made within 24 hours.

All child service organization personnel (employees as well as volunteers) are now mandated reporters.

This statute is consistent with the BSA mandatory reporting requirement which states:

Mandatory Report of Child Abuse

All persons involved in Scouting shall report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation, including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. You may not abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.

Steps to Reporting Child Abuse

1. Ensure the child is in a safe environment.
2. In cases of emergencies, call 911 immediately. In addition, if you suspect abuse is in the Scout's troop, home or family, or by any caregiver you are required to contact the local child abuse hotline.
3. Although you have an independent, non transferable duty to report abuse to authorities within 24 hours, you can contact the Council for assistance in making your report.

4. You should document your report including notes of exactly what you reported the name of the authority and caseworker as well as a case number if assigned.
5. Notify the Scout executive or his/her designee.

Reporting Violations of BSA Youth Protection Policies

If you think any of the BSA's Youth Protection policies have been violated, including those described within Scouting's Barriers to Abuse, you must notify your local council Scout executive or his/her designee so appropriate action can be taken for the safety of our Scouts.

Georgia Child Protective Services maintains an after- hours hotline for reporting child abuse. This excerpt is from their web site.

The DHS Division of Family and Children Services' (DFCS) Child Protective Services (CPS) After-Hours Call Center was established to ensure reports of abuse/neglect are received, accessed and handled timely and efficiently during the times that local DFCS offices are closed. The CPS After-Hours Call Center is currently **ONLY** for reporting child abuse/neglect during the times that local DFCS offices are closed, but will eventually move towards a statewide CPS Call Center that is operational 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Reports of child abuse and neglect can be made to

1-855-GA CHILD (1-855-422-4453):

5 p.m. — 8a.m. Weekdays

OR

24 Hours on Weekends, [Holidays](#), and [Furloughs](#)

****If a child is in immediate danger call 911***

The Cobb DFCS # is 770-728-5000 during weekday hours.