



To: New Jersey School Superintendents and Administrators  
Route to: High School Principals, Health Teachers, School Nurses  
From: Christine Norbut Beyer, MSW, Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Children and Families  
Date: August 27, 2019  
Subject: New Jersey Law Requires Child Abuse Hotline To Be Posted in Schools

Last month, Governor Phil Murphy [signed a law](#) that requires all schools to publicly post the Department of Children and Families' Child Abuse Hotline number – also called the State Central Registry (SCR) – so that students as well as teachers and administrators are made aware that it exists and can easily call, if needed.

New Jersey is a mandatory reporter state, which means that anyone who witnesses or even suspects child abuse or neglect **must** call the SCR, which operates 24/7/365.

The hotline staff handles over 10,000 calls a month alleging child abuse or neglect and/or requesting program referrals. Many of these calls are from educators, law enforcement and health care workers. While it has always been allowed, [this new law](#) strongly encourages youth to also report abuse and/or neglect, whether their own or that of a friend or classmate.

SCR screeners are trained caseworkers and they know how to respond to reports of child abuse/neglect. Whenever possible, a caller should provide all of the following information:

- **Who:** The child and parent/caregiver's name, age and address and the name of the alleged perpetrator and that person's relationship to the child.
- **What:** Type and frequency of alleged abuse/neglect, current or previous injuries to the child and what caused you to become concerned.
- **When:** When the alleged abuse/neglect occurred and when you learned of it.
- **Where:** Where the incident occurred, where the child is now and whether the alleged perpetrator has access to the child.
- **How:** How urgent the need is for intervention and whether there is a likelihood of imminent danger for the child.

Schools can order poster-sized prints directly from the Department of Children and families through [this link](#) or download the 8.5x11 inch flyer to print from [this link](#). The DCF also offers a training module at [this link](#) for individuals interested in learning more about their responsibility to report child abuse.

We thank the DOE and the school districts for working with the DCF to help keep New Jersey's children and families safe, healthy and connected.