Reporting

Reports can also be made by dialing the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-992-5757 for all areas of the state except Clark and Washoe Counties.

In Clark County, call 702-399-0081. In Washoe County, call 775-785-8600 or call your local sheriff.

The legal responsibility of the professional is to report suspected incidents of child abuse. The person making the report is usually not informed of results of an investigation.

If the person making the report is concerned about the adequacy of the investigation and is not able to remedy the situation with the local agency, contact:

Systems Advocate Unit
Chrystal Main
775-684-4453 E-mail: cmain@dfcs.state.nv.us

FOR EDUCATIONAL HELP, CONTACT:

- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Clark County 702-222-3130, Washoe County Cooperative Extension office 775-784-4848, or your local County Cooperative Extension office. They offer free workshops on Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse. Contact your local Cooperative Extension office for information on online resources. http://www.unce.unr.edu

Nevada Agencies Handling Child Abuse and Neglect Complaints are:

(Reports are to be put on hold or directed to dial “many numbers.” Don’t give up; your call is important.)

Nevada Division of Child and Family Services District Offices

Northern Region:
- Washoe County Department of Social Services
  P.O. Box 11130
  Reno, NV 89520-0027
  775-785-8600
  775-785-8648 (Fax)

- Carson City Office
  1572 E. College Parkway, 5161
  Carson City, NV 89706
  775-687-4943
  775-687-4903 (Fax)

Southern Region:
- Elko District Office
  3920 Idaho Street
  Elko, NV 89801
  775-753-1300
  775-753-1301 (Fax)

Rural Services Locations
- Fallon District Office
  1735 Kaiser Street
  Fallon, NV 89406-3108
  775-423-8566
  775-423-4800 (Fax)

- Elko District Office
  3920 Idaho Street
  Elko, NV 89801
  775-753-1300
  775-753-1301 (Fax)

- Pahrump Field Office
  2280 Calvada, Suite 302
  Pahrump, NV 89040-3161
  775-727-8497
  775-727-7027 (Fax)

References


Reports of Abuse or Neglect. Nevada Revised Statutes, 432B.020 – 432B.330


The well-being of children, particularly those who are abused or neglected, has been a long-standing concern. Legislation, which defines child abuse and determines the appropriate role for child welfare agencies, has been a part of state statutes for over 20 years.

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

Child abuse is defined in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 432B.020 as follows: “Abuse or neglect of a child means: Physical or mental injury of a non-accidental nature; sexual abuse or sexual exploitation; or negligent treatment or maltreatment caused or allowed by the person responsible for his welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm.”

Nevada ranks among the highest in the nation in the number of reported cases of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children.

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System reports for 2004 that of the 665,596 children in Nevada, there were 4,377 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect and 16,399 unsubstantiated cases. (See Table 1.)

Substantiated cases are investigations that conclude that the allegation of maltreatment or risk of maltreatment was supported or founded by state law or state policy.

Unsubstantiated cases are investigations that determine that there is not sufficient evidence under state law to conclude or suspect that the child has been maltreated or is at risk of being maltreated.

Child abuse reports remain high, despite a corresponding decrease in the number of substantiated cases in Nevada. The number of children confirmed to be victims of abuse and neglect continues to number just under 4,500.

The most current county data on the number of child abuse and neglect reports in Nevada by county/region are available in the 2004 Nevada Kids Count Book, pages 77-83 or from Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child & Family Services, Nevada Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics.

The Child Welfare League of America, using State Data Trends for Nevada from the National Data Analysis System reports:


- Of all Nevada children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 54.1% were white; 23.5% were Black; 14.7% were Hispanic; 9% were American/Alaskan Native, and 6.9% were of other races and ethnicities.

TABLE I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maltreatment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Victims</td>
<td>4,377</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>3,605</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Neglect</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Reports frequently include multiple types of maltreatment and more than a single incident
WHAT TO REPORT
According to NRS432B.230, a child abuse or neglect report may be made verbally by telephone or otherwise.

“The report must contain the following information, if obtainable:

a. The name, address, age and sex of the child.
b. The name and address of the child’s parents or other person responsible for his care.
c. The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect of the child; the effect of prenatal illegal substance abuse on the newborn infant or the nature of the withdrawal resulting from prenatal drug exposure of the newborn infant.
d. Any evidence or previously known or suspected abuse or neglect of the child or the child’s siblings or effects of prenatal illegal substance abuse on or evidence of withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure of the newborn infant.
e. The name, address, and relationship, if known, of the person who is alleged to have abused or neglected the child.
f. Any other information known to the person making the report that Child Welfare Services considers necessary.”

WHEN AND WHERE TO REPORT
According to Nevada Revised Statute 432B.121(1), persons are required by law to report as soon as reasonably practicable but not later than 24 hours after the person knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the newborn infant is so affected or has such symptoms, notify an agency which provides child welfare services for the condition of the infant and refer each person who is responsible for the welfare of the infant to an agency which provides child welfare services.”

REPORTING

WHO MUST REPORT?
According to Nevada Revised Statute 432B.121(1) any person who has “reasonable cause to believe” child abuse may be occurring or has occurred may report to a Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement agency. Mandated reporters are those persons, who in their professional or occupational capacities, know or have reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected. Mandated reporters include the following:

a. A physician, dentist, dental hygienist, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, medical examiner, resident, intern, professional or practical nurse, physician’s assistant, psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, alcohol or drug abuse counselor, advanced emergency medical technician or ambulance or other person providing medical services licensed or certified in Nevada.

b. Any personnel of a hospital or similar institution engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of persons.
c. A coroner.
d. A clergyman, practitioner of Christian Science or religious healer.
e. A social worker, administrator, teacher, librarian or counselor of a school.
f. Any person who maintains or is employed by a facility or establishment that provides care for children, children’s camp or other public or private facility, institution or agency furnishing care to a child.
g. Any person licensed to conduct a foster home.
h. Any officer or employee of a law enforcement agency or an adult or juvenile probation officer.

PERPETRATORS
Most perpetrators of child maltreatment are caregivers who have been found to have abused or neglected a child. In most cases, the perpetrator is a parent who is responsible for the child’s well-being. (See Table 2.)

In 2004, 57.8% of the perpetrators were women and 42.2 percent were men. Female perpetrators were typically younger than male perpetrators. The median age for perpetrators was 31 years for women and 34 years for men.

Table 2 shows the perpetrator’s relationship to the child for substantiated cases only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship to Victim</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Parent</td>
<td>5,046</td>
<td>93.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepparent</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>2.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoptive Parent</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Parent</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Teen</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Relative</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy/Girl Friend</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution Staff</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babysitter</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>5,388</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Risk cases, a child may be placed in protective custody. A Protective Custody Hearing is held within 72 hours and a judge determines whether a child will remain in custody. Children requiring longer term care are placed in foster care with either relatives or licensed foster parents.

• On September 30, 2003, there were 3,599 children in foster care in Nevada, compared with 3,291 on September 30, 2002.

• The average age of a child in foster care was 8.7 years, and the average length of stay was 19.9 months.

• There are over 900 foster care homes in Nevada. Twenty-three percent (23%) of the children in foster care reside with their relatives. Of the 3,378 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 67.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.