



YOUTH PROTECTION REPORTING GUIDELINES

REPORTING : It is the LAW

IMPORTANT: Child abuse is a crime. It can involve the emotional, physical, and sexual victimization of children. Texas law says: “Any person having *cause to believe...*” that a child has been abused or neglected must report the situation to Child Protective Services or to the local law enforcement agency within 48 hours of suspicion. You do not have to know beyond any doubt that a child has been a victim of child abuse. Anyone who reports in good faith is protected from legal liability. *Failure* to report a case of child abuse is a Class B misdemeanor.

CONTACTS for REPORTING

Child Protective Services Reporting Hot Line(800) 252-5400

Galveston County Sheriff..... (409) 766-2300
Brazoria County Sheriff (including Camp Karankawa).....(979) 345 -5197 or (800) 392-4321

If you are unsure of the number of the local law enforcement agency, call 911.

Bay Area Council Office, (Pat Craven, Scout Executive) 409-744-5206, (800-516-4664)

✍ If you come to suspect that a youth is being abused or an adult or older youth is a potential abuser you must:

- 1) *First* to **Child Protective Services** or **local law enforcement**. (You cannot delegate the responsibility of reporting to a unit leader, Scout Executive, or anyone else. If *you* suspect, you must report!)
- 2) *Then*, if the youth or adult is a member of the Boy Scouts of America, you must contact the **Scout Executive** at 409-744-5206 or 1-800-516-4664. .

TRAINING: – www.bacBSA.org

- ? BSA expects all adult volunteers to receive training in Youth Protection and all youth in the Scouting program to be exposed to the Youth Protection programs developed by the BSA.
- ? Every Unit should designate a Youth Protection Coordinator, not to do the training, but to ensure that leaders and Scouts are being trained. Having a Youth Protection Coordinator is a requirement for any unit to attain the Quality Unit award.
- ? Bay Area Council has a trained team of Youth Protection Trainers. It is important that every one working with youth be trained. Contact the council to arrange an in -person training for Scout or Non -Scouting Groups. To schedule a training for your group or unit visit the training page of the council web site at