

EDUCATORS: ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN



In a time of crisis, students being out of school can create barriers to reporting abuse. Increased stress and economic instability can cause an increase in child abuse, but less contact with children can cause a decline in the number of reported incidents. The ability to speak up for the safety of children across Pennsylvania is now crucial. If you reasonably suspect a child is unsafe — report. You do not need proof. **You may be the only person to act.**

HELPFUL TIPS



Let students know you are still a supportive, caring adult in their lives; check in regularly.



Signs of Concern

- Students with technology/internet access lacking virtual attendance or incomplete homework after a long period of time.
- No contact with family after repeated phone calls/messages.
- Child communicates they feel unsafe, you see a dangerous environment, or you notice a significant change in the child's mood or behavior.



Make an Effort with Children Who:

- Have a history of abuse or neglect, drug use, or have discussed/attempted suicide.
- Are responsible for the care of other children or live in a high-stress family situation with limited support.
- Require assistance due to physical, mental, behavioral, or medical disabilities/delays.

While our child welfare system is well known to mandated reporters for investigating specific allegations of child abuse, many reporters are not aware that county children and youth agencies are also available to help support children and their families with general protective services assessments and connections to community resources when concerns for the health and safety of a child are present.

82,000 ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED IN 2019



Provide services to prevent child abuse and neglect.



Provide or arrange for and monitor the provision of those services necessary to safeguard a child's well-being and development.



Preserve and stabilize family life whenever possible.

Reports assessed included concerns such as parental substance abuse, homelessness, child behavioral health concerns, and inadequate health care for a child.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. REPORT CHILD ABUSE TO CHILDLINE.

ONLINE: www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/ • **CALL:** 1-800-932-0313

PLEASE NOTE: When you make a report in good faith, you are protected against civil/criminal penalty or adverse employment action.