

MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS CARE & PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT

Under the [Care and Protection of Children Act](#) :

All people in the NT must report to [NT Families and Children's Central Intake Team](#) (CIT), or the police, if they believe on reasonable grounds that:

- A child under 18 has suffered, or is likely to suffer harm or exploitation; or
- A person under 14 has been, or is likely to be a victim of a sexual offence* (this means any sexual activity); or
- A person under 18 has been, or is likely to be sexually active with a person that has a relationship of 'special care' (i.e. caring, instructing or supervising relationship eg coach, boss, teacher, step-parent, priest) with that young person.

In addition to the above, registered health practitioners must report to NT Families and Children's CIT, or the Police, if they believe on reasonable grounds that a child aged 14 or 15 years has been or is likely to be sexually active with someone where there is more than 2 years difference in age.

Reports must be made as soon as possible after forming that belief, and information about the victim and other relevant information must be provided in the report.

Managers must make their staff aware of these laws.

Reports made in good faith will not leave the reporter criminally or civilly liable, and will not breach any professional code of conduct or privacy laws.

There is a risk of being found guilty of a criminal offence for not reporting.

It is DHF policy that reports are to made to the NT Families and Children's CIT.

How to make a report: The preferred method is by telephone to the NT Families and Children's CIT on **1800 700 250** (24 hours). By telephoning your report the Intake Worker can seek and clarify information directly from you, rather than trying to reach you at another time.

You will be asked for information including:

- the child's name, age, address and present location
- the nature of the suspected abuse or neglect
- what you have heard or observed
- information about the immediate danger to the child
- actions taken
- any other information you think may help, eg other agencies involved with the child

Not having all of this information should not stop you from making a report.

Alternatively, a written report (preferably utilising the [Section 26 Report](#)) may be sent to CIT where it is not possible to report by telephone (fax to 8922 3766, or email facshintake@nt.gov.au). Your written report should also include any follow up required and your contact details and preferred contact time. You may be contacted by CIT or the Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT) for additional information.

* *Sexual offence in the context of child sexual abuse is defined as sexual intercourse, gross indecency, oral/anal sex, sexual relationship, indecent touching or dealing or assault, and making, collection or exposure of indecent material.*

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