

**YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDELINES****CHIEF OKEMOS COUNCIL REPORTING PROCEDURES****Who is the Chief Okemos Council representative responsible for receiving and forwarding BSA-related reports of child abuse and/or neglect?**

First contact: Daniel Bettison, Scout Executive, 517-321-9400, ext. 116  
Or, after business hours, 517-203-9979 (cell)

Second/alternate contact: Clarence Smith, District Director, 517-321-9400, ext. 109  
Or, after business hours, 517-290-5680 (cell)

If no one is available to receive your call, please leave your name and telephone number on the voice mail.

**If the child is not in the Scouting program, where should the report be made?**

Make Child Abuse and Neglect reports to the Department of Protective Services (within the State of Michigan Family Independence Agency) at:

Ingham County: #517-887-9450 (24 hours)

Eaton County: #517-543-0860  
#517-543-0863 (after hours)

Clinton County: #517-224-5500  
#517-224-7684 (after hours)

You may also contact the Statewide Parent Help Line (Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline) at:  
#1-800-942-4357.

**What is child abuse/neglect?**

As defined by the State of Michigan Child Protection Law, "Child abuse" means harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare that occurs through nonaccidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or maltreatment, by a parent, a legal guardian, or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare or by a teacher, a teacher's aide, or a member of the clergy.

"Child neglect" means harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare by a parent, legal guardian, or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare that occurs through either of the following: (i) Negligent treatment, including the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care. (ii) Placing a child at an unreasonable risk to the child's health or welfare by failure of the parent, legal guardian, or other person responsible for the child's health or welfare to intervene to eliminate that risk when that person is able to do so and has, or should have, knowledge of the risk.

**What if I am not sure that the child is being abused?**

Any person, including a child, who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect, may make, or cause a report to be made. The appropriate agency will then investigate, determine whether the abuse is substantiated, and provide for confidentiality of records.