



# Ventura County Council

## Boy Scouts of America

### **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

#### **CONTACTING THE COUNCIL**

The Boy Scouts requires immediate notification of your Scout Executive whenever information about possible child abuse in the Boy Scout program is uncovered. The current policy for after-hours notifications is to call the Scout office in Camarillo at (805) 482-8938 and leave a detailed voice message. 482-8938. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Scout Executive will ensure that all state reporting requirements have been met and will also take measures to protect the youth in the Scouting program.

If an immediate report is to be made due to extreme urgency, a contact to the County Child Abuse Neglect and Protection (CANP) office should be made, see telephone numbers below.

When the Council is contacted you should be prepared to provide the following information.

Name of suspected victim \_\_\_\_\_ Date of incident \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of victim \_\_\_\_\_ Age of victim \_\_\_\_\_

Name of alleged abuser \_\_\_\_\_

Address of abuser \_\_\_\_\_

Description of the event or suspected abuse \_\_\_\_\_

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Please include unit numbers, telephone numbers, and as much detail as you can. Please leave your name and contact numbers so that we can confirm and clear up any questions we may have in completing our report.

#### **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN VENTURA COUNTY**

The person having cause to believe that a child is being abused or has received a disclosure should make a telephone report to the County Child Abuse Neglect and Protection (CANP) office, which handles such cases.

Their telephone numbers are:

Oxnard Plains/Ventura Area (805) 654-3200  
All Other Areas of the County (800) 754-7600 (24 Hours)  
Or call your local city police or County Sheriffs Department.

CANP accepts all allegations of child abuse and neglect by telephone and in person from all sources, including identified sources, news media, anonymous sources, sources that have incomplete information, and referrals from the child or parent themselves.

Upon receiving a report of child abuse or neglect a CANP caseworker shall investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

## **IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY**

No civil or criminal liability is incurred if a report is made to CANP or to the local police or sheriffs department, in good faith, and the report is later found to be incorrect.

Any person that oversees the activities of programs, or is involved in any aspect of the Boy Scouts of America, Ventura County Council, who has knowledge of or observes a child in his or her volunteer or professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse shall report the known or suspected instance(s) of the child abuse to the Scout Executive of the Ventura County Council, immediately or as soon as practically possible, either in person or by telephone, (805) 482-8938.

For the purpose of this reporting procedure, "reasonable suspicion" means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse.

Child abuse means a physical injury, which is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person. Child abuse also means sexual abuse of a child. Child abuse also means neglect of a child and unlawful corporal punishment or injury. It does not mean a mutual affray between minors.

Penal Code Section 11172 states in part that "Any other person reporting a known or suspected instance of child abuse shall not incur civil or criminal liability as a result of any report authorized by this article unless it can be proven that a false report was made and the person knew that the report was false or was made with reckless disregard of the truth of falsity of the report."