

Dear Chamber of Commerce Member:

Keeping families at home during the COVID-19 pandemic has helped to protect children from infection. For some children, however, this has come at the cost of increased suffering from maltreatment – at the very time that children have been isolated from the teachers, coaches, friends or other trusted adults who might otherwise detect compromise to their safety and well-being. In fact, calls to report suspected child abuse and neglect have decreased in Illinois by 57% compared to the same time last year – mirroring data from across the country.

It is important for every person to:

- Take child abuse and neglect seriously;
- Be able to recognize it; and
- Know what to do next.

To ensure that everyone knows how to contact the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline to report suspected child abuse or neglect, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services has created a new **Protecting Children is a Responsibility we all Share** poster, which is attached. We ask that you please send the attached poster to your membership and urge them to print and display it in a high-traffic area seen by visitors and employees. If you would like additional posters to display in your front window so they can be seen by passers-by; or to distribute to businesses in your community, please email Linda Davis at Linda.D.Davis@illinois.gov or call 312-814-6847. Posters are free and are available in English, Spanish, Polish and Arabic.

Protecting children is a responsibility we all share. Thank you for helping us keep them safe.



Marc D. Smith
Acting Director
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

PROTECTING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY WE ALL SHARE



It is important for every person to:

- **TAKE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT SERIOUSLY**
- **BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE IT**
- **KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT**

If you have reason to believe a child you know is being abused or neglected, call the child abuse hotline at

1.800.25.ABUSE (22873)



www2.illinois.gov/DCFS

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois • DCFS #000 • Jun 2020 • 000 copies • rev 8/2020

NOTICE Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012. A violation of this subsection is a Class 4 felony. (Source: P.A. 97-189, eff. 7-22-11; 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services