

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO HELP PROTECT CHILDREN



## 1 CHILD ABUSE REPORTS ARE DOWN

Since the pandemic began, calls to LA County's Child Protection Hotline have declined by as much as 50 percent. With children home, the safety net of mandated reporters is not present. We need everyone's help to keep children safe.



## 2 WHAT ARE SIGNS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT

- Child with unexplained burns, bites, scratches, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
- Child lacks adult/mature youth supervision
- Child is consistently dirty
- Violent altercations can be heard in the home

More signs here: <https://bit.ly/2T0bZ30>



## 3 REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE TO 800-540-4000

- The Child Protection Hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Anyone can report suspected child abuse or neglect.
- Anyone who reports child abuse in good faith is protected by law from civil or criminal liability.
- Callers can make a report and remain anonymous, except for mandated reports.



## 4 WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I CALL?

After you make a report, the information is reviewed to determine if an investigation is needed or if the family can benefit from extra support. In LA County, families may be connected to agencies in their communities for support. If an investigation is needed a social worker will visit the family to assess for child safety.

Learn more about reporting suspected child abuse at [childwelfare.gov](http://childwelfare.gov)