

# KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

## Report Abuse and Neglect

Texas law requires a person having reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect by any person to immediately make a report to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services or law enforcement.

Call **800-252-5400** to make confidential reports.

Failure to report suspected abuse or neglect is a crime. Employers are prohibited from retaliating against caregivers who make reports in good faith.

## Protect Children

- Never shake a baby.
- Shaken baby syndrome is the result of violently shaking a young child. Injuries can include brain swelling and damage, subdural hemorrhaging, reduced cognitive function and death.

## Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

SIDS is the unexplained death of a sleeping baby.

**Always place infants to sleep on their backs in a crib with a firm surface away from soft items like blankets, pillows or toys.**

## Keep Children Healthy

- Wash your hands and children's hands often.
- Immunize children.
- Keep ill children at home.
- Learn pediatric CPR and first aid.
- Make sure children drink plenty of water.
- Discuss special needs with caregivers.
- Learn more about childhood diabetes, which impairs a body's ability to regulate blood sugar levels, and other medical conditions, from your child's health-care provider.

## Water Safety

- Always maintain active supervision and stay within reach of children in the water.
- Secure water areas with fences, alarms or other means to ensure children don't access the areas unsupervised.
- Have an emergency plan and ensure caregivers are trained in pediatric CPR.
- Don't assume children will use good judgment around the water and make safe choices.

## Transportation Safety

- Use car seats and booster seats according to Texas law. All children under 8-years-old who are 4'9" or shorter must be in an appropriate child safety seat system installed according to manufacturer's instructions.  
Before closing car doors, make sure that arms, fingers, legs and toes are all inside to avoid accidental injury.
- Children should not be left in a car unattended for any period. Have a system in place to ensure all children have safely exited the car.
- Keep car doors locked and the keys out of children's reach.
- Educate adults and children about car and transportation safety, especially about getting in and out of a vehicle, loading and unloading curbside.
- Maintain active supervision when children are around cars.
- More information can be found at:  
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/media-and-communications-office/child-passenger-safety-information>

## Unsafe Children's Products

Visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website at [cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov) to see recalls of unsafe children's products.

Sign up for email updates at [cpsc.gov/newsroom/subscribe](http://cpsc.gov/newsroom/subscribe).



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human Services

**Texas Health and Human Services Commission**  
**Child Care Regulation Department**

\* Texas Family Code, Title 5. The Parent-Child Relationship and the Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship, Subtitle E. Protection of the Child, Chapter 261. Investigation of Report of Child Abuse or Neglect, Subchapter B. Report of Abuse or Neglect; Immunities