



## AGIR

What do you do if you suspect that a child is witness to violence or is exposed to violence or abuse?

### Send a report of concern to child protection and the police!

It must contain: personal details, cause for concern, describe what you have seen, heard, observed and when. State the contact person and tell what has been done.

### Guidance

Are you unsure? Call child welfare, the police, a crisis shelter or children's home for advice and guidance.

### Obligation to report

It is your individual duty to report to child protection and the police if you suspect violence or abuse. They are responsible for investigating the case and deciding on further measures.

## ARE YOU STILL WORRIED?

- Send a new message to child protection!
- Re-evaluate whether you have a duty of care!

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### Phone 24/7

Police: 112 or 02800

Crisis shelter for Sunnmøre:

- dep. women & children: 70 16 33 33

- dep. men & children: 90 70 74 33

Emergency room: 116 117

Child protection officer: 91 57 60 20

Abuse center: 116 117

### Phone daytime only

Statens Barnehus Ålesund: 70 11 88 50

<https://www.krisesenter-sunnmore.no/>

## What do you do IF YOU SUSPECT VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE AGAINST CHILDREN?



– for those working with children, public employees or neighbours



Krisesenter for  
SUNNMØRE

An intermunicipal collaboration between

Fjord | Giske | Hareid | Herøy | Sande | Stranda | Haram  
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## OBSERVE

- Wounds and bruises
- Burns and cuts
- Sleeping and eating disorder
- Stomach ache
- Change in mood
- Social withdrawing
- Acting out or “pleasing” behaviour
- Soreness, pain in genitals
- Sexualized behaviour
- Self harm
- Frequent visits to the doctor and admissions to hospital (with diffuse symptoms)
- Poor dental health
- The family objects to access
- Use of drugs

**Violence is about more than hitting!**

**Witnessing violence can be at least as harmful as being exposed to it yourself!**

## ASK

Ask the child what has happened, in a caring way.  
Be curious and exploratory.

**You might start with:**

*- I have noticed that...*

**Describe what you see:**

*- you often have a stomach ache ...*

*- you seem tired/sad*

*- you have a bruise on your arm*

## TIPS

- Repeat what the child says.
- Ask open questions, not leading ones.
- Use supporting words such as *hm...* - *yes, tell me more.*
- You might need to ask several times.
- Arrange another meeting with the child.
- Write a log.

## ACUTE SITUATIONS

When you have reason to believe that a child is being exposed to violence or abuse, or will be exposed to it, you have a duty to act:

- in case of physical damage
- in case of serious threats
- in case of suspicion of sexual abuse
- when the child shows fear of going home
- when the child is picked up by drunken parents
- in case of suspicion of imminent/performed genital mutilation or forced marriage

**Notify the police and child protection immediately!**

## CLARIFY

A child can tell about events in e.g. class. Pick up the topic again as soon as possible.

- *What you said today, what did you mean?*
- *I wasn't there, tell me as best you can...*
- *What happened next?*
- *You have told me about...*

Be careful and don't ask for too many details. Let the child tell the story with their own words. Make a detailed note. Make it clear to the child that you think what it is telling you is important.

**Do not promise the child that you will not tell anyone.**

Explain to the child that you must talk to another adult about what the child has told you.

- You can consult with child protection, the crisis shelter or the police.
- Inform the manager of your concern. Make a plan for further handling.

**NB! If you suspect violence and abuse against children, parents must NOT be contacted.**

### **Obligation to report**

Through Section 196 of the Penal Code, we all have a personal duty to report or otherwise avoid and prevent criminal offences. This is a personal responsibility and it overrides the duty of confidentiality.