Verdugo Hills Council, Boy Scouts of America

1325 Grandview Avenue • Glendale, CA 91201 • 818-243-6282 • Fax: 818-243-5169

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

REPORTING INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR OF ANY KIND WITH A CHILD

All persons involved in Scouting shall report to **local authorities** any good faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. No person may abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.

The **Scout Executive** should be notified of this report, or of any violation of BSA's Youth Protection policies, so he or she may take appropriate action for the safety of our Scouts, make appropriate notifications, and follow-up with investigating agencies.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

State law says any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to neglect or acts of child abuse shall report this information immediately to the local authorities. In Los Angeles County, this is the Child Protective Services, which operates a 24-hour Child Protection Hotline to receive reports of child abuse and neglect. If the abuse takes place outside LA County, the report should be made in the jurisdiction in which the abuse happened, too.

Calif. Penal Code 11165.7(b) states that "volunteers of public or private organizations whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of children are not mandated reporters but are encouraged to obtain training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect and are further encouraged to report known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect."

To report child abuse in Los Angeles County, contact the **Child Protection Hotline., toll-free within California, at 800-540-4000**. After receiving a report of child abuse or neglect, a caseworker shall investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

To contact the **Scout Executive** in Verdugo Hills Council, call the Scout office in Glendale, California at **818-243-6282**.

IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY

Anyone who reports known or suspected child abuse is protected by law from civil or criminal liability unless it can be proven that the report was false and that the person who made the report knew it was false. Any person, except a mandated reporter, who reports child abuse may remain anonymous. Mandated reporters are required to give their names. However, it is helpful to give your name and telephone number to the worker taking the report in the event he or she needs to obtain more information later. (http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/safety/index.html#5 and Calif. Penal Code 11172(a))