

## **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**



### **Pinwheels for Prevention**

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The University of Florida and UF Health supports the national initiative to raise awareness about the importance of preventing child maltreatment. Throughout the university and greater Gainesville community blue pinwheel gardens can be observed which symbolizes childhood.

The Office of Youth Compliance is an avid supporter of child abuse prevention. The annual youth protection training is a tool for those who engage with youth on behalf of the university. The training was developed to equip personnel with the knowledge on how to provide safe environments for youth and recognize the different types and signs of child abuse. It also provides guidance when responding and reporting suspected child abuse.

### **Reporting Child Abuse**

University of Florida personnel are required to abide by the Mandatory Reporting rules as outlined in F.S. 39.201.

"Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare is a mandatory reporter."

## **How to Report Child Abuse**

In the event of an emergency or if you see a crime in progress, contact the University of Florida Police Department at 352-392-1111 or 911 if located off campus.

### **Step 1: Immediately report the abuse to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) via one of the following methods:**

1. Telephone: 1-800-962- 2873 (24-hour hotline)
2. Fax: 1-800-914-0004 ([Fax Reporting Form](#))
3. TTY: 1-800-955-8771 or 711 (Florida Relay)
4. [Online Report](#) (provide gator link email to DCF)

### **Step 2: Notify Compliance and Ethics within 12 hours of reporting to DCF**

After the report is made to DCF, notify your supervisor, and submit an incident report to UF Compliance and Ethics.

1. [Incident Report](#)

For additional resources relating to minors on campus, youth activities, and child abuse reporting please review the [Youth Compliance & Child Abuse Reporting Policy](#) and visit <https://youth.compliance.ufl.edu/>.

Contact: [Youth Compliance Contact Form](#)