

## Abuse and Emotional Emergencies

The following is taken from the “Abuse” and “Emotional Emergencies” sections of the [S&I Emergency Response Guide](#).

### Abuse

A Global Incident Report (GIR) **is not** to be completed or submitted for “Abuse” situations.

Child abuse situations should be handled as follows:

#### Advance Preparation

Personnel should be familiar with and *carefully* follow local laws regarding responsibilities and liabilities for reporting abuse (whether physical, sexual, emotional, or other). In virtually every case, child abuse will need to be reported to law enforcement after calling the “Abuse” hotline to receive instructions. There may be different legal implications for victims under 18 years of age than for those who are older.

*Note: Local child abuse reporting information should be discussed periodically during inservice meetings with all full-time, part-time, and stake seminary and institute of religion teachers and administrators. In all discussions and reporting, concern for the victim should be the top priority.*

#### During Incident

When it appears a student might talk to a teacher about personal or family involvement with abuse, the teacher should explain that he or she is required to report allegations of child abuse by calling the Church Abuse hotline. While being patient, sensitive, reassuring, and understanding, the teacher should direct the student to his or her bishop or branch president to discuss the problem. Teachers should never try to assume the role of a bishop or branch president. Teachers should always assume the student is being truthful. Call the abuse hotline as noted below as soon as possible. Do not discuss or report the matter to anyone unless directed to do so by the person responding on the hotline.

#### After Incident

Whenever personnel become aware of an instance of alleged child abuse, they should immediately call the applicable “Abuse” hotline number (see shaded box).

The hotline staff will (1) advise on how to assist the victim, (2) help determine whether a report to civil authorities is necessary, and (3) help facilitate a report, if needed.

United States and Canada:	
Australia:	
France and United Kingdom:	
New Zealand:	
All Others:	Contact Local Area Legal Counsel

*Note: A Global Incident Report (GIR) **is not** to be completed or submitted for incidences of child abuse. Neither are personnel to maintain any notes or other records. All documentation of calls by personnel will be maintained solely by the Church Abuse Hotline. Church legal counsel will inform S&I administration whenever abuse is alleged to have occurred on S&I property or involve personnel, or if personnel fail to report the abuse in a timely manner or otherwise handle an allegation of abuse inappropriately.*

### Emotional Emergencies

Emotional emergencies include suicidal attempts or threats, rape, depression, drug abuse, and so forth.

*Note: For child abuse, it is very important that personnel follow the instructions under the “Abuse” section of this guide and **not** the instructions below for “Emotional Emergencies.”*

#### Advance Preparation

Ensure that all personnel have access to emergency telephone numbers.

#### Safety Procedures

During Incident	After Incident
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen carefully, be reassuring, and assess needs.</li> <li>• Administer first aid when necessary (see the “Medical Emergencies” section of this guide).</li> <li>• Make note of helpful information.</li> <li>• If the situation appears to be life-threatening, call emergency personnel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact a parent or guardian or an emergency contact person.</li> <li>• Record information about the incident and any action taken.</li> <li>• See the “Incident Reporting” section of this guide for instructions on reporting the incident.</li> </ul>