



The WVCSB has adopted the **STOP** acronym as an easy tool to help remember the steps to follow when reporting abuse.



STAY CALM

and listen well (James 1:29-30), gathering information if possible. Remember, it is not your job to investigate.

Collect:



- Victim(s) and household demographics.
- Description of suspected abuse or neglect.
- Current location of victim and caregivers.
- Presence of protective caregivers and perpetrator's access to the victim.
- General functioning of victim and caregivers.
- Potential safety threats to first responders in the home/family.



TURN

to proper legal authorities (Romans 13:1-5).

Call:

-  9-1-1 if there is obvious physical injury witnessed or observed.
-  1.800.352.6513 (WVDHHR Abuse and Neglect Hotline) if there is a complaint of abuse or neglect.

Remember: Persons making a report in good faith are immune from civil or criminal liability under WV Code §49-2-810 for reports of child abuse or neglect and WV Code §9-6-12 for reports of adult abuse or neglect.



OPERATE

with a commitment to protect the weak and vulnerable (Exodus 22:22).

Call the WVCSB abuse hotline at **304.760.8994** for assistance from our Sexual Abuse Protection Coordinator and local Caring Well team. Confidential help aims to support survivors and ministries with grace and wisdom.



PRIORITIZE

care for the victim. Seek safety for those in harm's way (Psalm 10:11-15).

Failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect is punishable under WV Code §49-2-812. Offenders may face misdemeanor charges, up to 90 days in jail, a fine of \$5,000, or both.

Mandated reporters, including clergy, camp counselors, volunteers, coaches, and employees or volunteers of an entity that provides organized activities for children, must report suspicions within 24 hours under WV Code §49-2-803 to ensure timely intervention and protection for children.