

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

MN Prairie (a combination of Dodge, Steele & Waseca Human Services) now has a centralized intake system. To make a report:

During business hours (8 AM – 4:30 PM), Tuesday hours extended until 7 PM) call:

- MN Prairie County Alliance at **(507)431-5725** or local lines at (507)837-6685 or (507)923-2962
- OR contact local law enforcement, Dispatch 911

Written reports can be emailed to

childprotection@mnprairie.org or faxed to (507)837-5330.

After business hours, weekends or holidays, contact your local law enforcement agency/dispatch or 911.

Ask **ONLY** five questions:

- What happened?
- Who did this to you?
- When did this happen?
- Where were you when this happened?
- How many times has this happened?

What do I do if I think someone is abusing a child?

If a child discloses that he or she has been abused by someone, it is important that you...

DO

- Support the child
- Validate his/her feelings
- Listen to the child
- Believe the child

DO NOT

- Investigate
- Ask leading questions (i.e “That man touched you, didn’t he?”)
- Make promises
- Notify the alleged perpetrator.