



# How to Respond to An Outcry of Abuse



## Do:

- remain calm
- believe the child
- allow the child to talk
- show interest and concern
- reassure and support the child's feelings
- take action. it could save a child's life

## Don't:

- panic or overreact
- press the child to talk
- promise anything you can't control
- confront the offender
- blame or minimize the child's feelings
- overwhelm the child with questions



**Remember, you are obligated by law to report suspected child abuse.**

If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, call 911. For all other cases in Texas, call the abuse and neglect hotline at **800-252-5400**. Outside of Texas, visit [www.onewithcourage.org](http://www.onewithcourage.org) for a list of resources.