

# Legal Issues Page-Child Abuse Policies

*Child abuse in America is a significant problem. Camp leaders are increasingly finding themselves faced with the question of "what to do" when they discover it at camp. We share with you here the policies adopted by Michigan Christian Youth Camp in hopes that it will guide other camps in the process of adopting their own. PLEASE consult your local and state authorities before officially placing your policies into effect.*

## **ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

1. Michigan Christian Youth Camp Director shall make an oral report within 8 hours.
2. Within 72 hours a written report shall be made to the Department of Social Services. A written report shall contain the name of the child and a description of the abuse or neglect. If possible, the report shall contain the names and addresses of the child's parents/guardian, or the persons with whom the child resides and the child's age. The report shall contain other information available to the Department of Social Services which might establish the cause of abuse or neglect and the manner in which it occurred.
3. If camper seems to be injured, medical treatment will be given by appropriate medical personnel.

## **CHILD ABUSE POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

1. Upon arrival of camper, the nurse shall screen all campers as to their physical condition. Note any bruises, cuts or markings on the child's body.
2. The counselor shall also watch for any signs of child abuse or neglect.
3. The waterfront staff shall also watch for any signs of child abuse or neglect.
4. If child abuse is suspected, follow the chain of command in reporting. Counselor to Weekly Manager to Director to Camp Committee.
5. Take camper to nurse to document bruises, cuts or markings on the child's body.
6. If camper confides in you of having been abused or neglected, only relate this information to those in authority. DO NOT tell any camper or other staff member!
7. Camper's records and applications shall be kept confidential. No one shall have access to the camp and the camper's files except the Camp Committee, Director, Weekly Manager and Camp Secretary.