# Child Sexual Abuse: Steps for Reporting

This card is a component of the Commit to Kids® program. It is intended as a quick reference for use in a sporting environment and is not meant to be exhaustive or to replace legal advice. Consult with child welfare, law enforcement and legal counsel if child abuse is alleged or suspected.

Coach/volunteer who receives disclosure:

* **Notifies law enforcement** and/or child welfare about the incident;
* **Consults with child welfare** about notifying parents; and
* **Notifies the supervisor/manager**, who in turn notifies the head of the organization.

(Document)

A child welfare agency and/or police **carry out investigation**. Organization should conduct an internal follow-up in consultation with police/child welfare and adjusts internal policies if needed.

POTENTIAL OUTCOME OF INVESTIGATION:

Head of the organization/manager **suspends coach/ volunteer** suspected of abuse with or without pay until case is resolved.**\*** (Document) If the individual is a volunteer or unpaid staff, consider if the individual should be dismissed from their position immediately.

1. **Substantiated/guilty.** Coach/volunteer is dismissed from his/her position.**\***
2. **Inconclusive/not guilty+.** Seek legal counsel. Consider if coach/volunteer should be dismissed, with or without severance.**\***

**+** Criminal processes can be complex and lengthy.

A finding of not guilty may not necessarily mean that the abuse did not occur. Consult with a lawyer.

**Many of these steps would also apply when:**

* A child discloses abuse by someone outside the organization
* A peer discloses on behalf of another child
* An adult suspects a child is abused
* **Document the outcome** of the investigation on the incident report form.
* **Document the results** of the internal follow up.

***The safety of the child and other children in the organization must be ensured at all times in the process.***

**\*NOTE:**

Seek legal guidance prior to suspension and/or dismissal.

As part of any investigation or internal follow-up process, an organization should be **critically assessing the adequacy of existing policies** and practices, and strengthening as necessary to better protect children.

**Child discloses abuse** or **abuse is discovered** with the adult involved in the abuse being a coach/volunteer. (Document)

Sincerely,

Segev Rabinoviz

Owner, Gladiator Soccer Academy