

# COMMITMENT TO YOUTH & CHILD SAFETY

The Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA serves over 12,000 members and program participants each year, many of those who are under the age of 18. We provide early childhood through school-age care and drop-in child watch services at our facilities.

We are both honored and respectful of the trust that caregivers place in our YMCA. Creating a safe environment in physical, social and emotional realms are at the center of our work and relationships. A safe setting for children combined with quality programming is the most important part of our focus upon youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Our core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility are part of everything we do. We place great value on providing a child-centered and child-safe environment and work each day to create an atmosphere where children grow and thrive.

Please report any child protection concerns to YMCA management immediately. If you prefer to report your concerns anonymously, call the YMCA Helpline at 1.855.347.0751.

**MARSHFIELD CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM YMCA**  
410 W McMillan St, Marshfield, WI 54449  
mfldymca.org | 715.387.4900



# SAFE YOUTH Community Resources

## WOOD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, please call Wood County Human Services or the county where the suspected abuse or neglect occurred. By contacting Wood County Human Services, your call:

- Could save a child's life
- Could prevent further abuse or neglect
- May allow families to receive resources or services, which they may desperately need
- Makes a valuable contribution to the protection of children and the prevention of abuse

If you believe that a child, age 0-17 years, has been abused or neglected or is at risk, you should report your concerns to Wood County Human Services immediately by calling: 715.421.8600.

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cps>

## THE CHILD HELP NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE

Dedicated to the prevention of child abuse, the hotline is staffed with professional crisis counselors who, through interpreters, provide assistance in over 170 languages. The hotline offers confidential crisis intervention, information, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, or support resources. [www.childhelp.org/hotline](http://www.childhelp.org/hotline)

The national hotline is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. (800)4ACHILD or (800)422.4453.

## FOR AN IMMEDIATE OR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY

Call 911 to request that police, fire or ambulance immediately respond to a life-threatening emergency.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD PROTECTION & SAFETY



## MARSHFIELD CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM YMCA

Revised 12/2024

# CREATING A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We take the following steps to keep children in our programs safe:

- Detailed employment application forms.
- Comprehensive reference checks that include standardized questions that assess risk for abuse.
- Statement of compliance with the Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA Code of Conduct and Abuse Prevention Policies.
- Supervisors complete additional training to further promote a child safe environment.
- Staff and volunteers are mandated to report any suspected child abuse.
- Policies exist to ensure staff and volunteers are not alone with a child. All interaction between a staff and child must be observable and interruptible.



# INFORMATION ABOUT ABUSE



We want all children to be safe. Unfortunately, child abuse and neglect does exist and can take on many forms.

Child abuse is the physical, sexual, or emotional maltreatment of a child by a parent, family member, other caregiver, or non-caregiver.

**EMOTIONAL ABUSE** is defined as emotional damage for which the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian has neglected, refused or been unable, for reasons other than poverty, to obtain the necessary treatment or to take steps to ameliorate the symptoms.

**PHYSICAL ABUSE** is the physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means. Physical injury includes but is not limited to lacerations, fractured bones, burns, internal injuries, severe or frequent bruising or great bodily harm as defined under Wisconsin statute s.939.22(14).

**SEXUAL ABUSE** is having sexual contact in any form with a minor child, including exposing, fondling, intercourse, pornography, internet solicitation, or trafficking.

**CHILD NEGLECT** is the failure, refusal or inability on the part of the parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person exercising temporary or permanent control over a child, for reasons other than poverty, to provide necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care or shelter so as to seriously endanger the physical health of the child.

# WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT ABUSE?

**TALK** regularly to your child about his or her experiences in YMCA programs, school, sports, and other activities.

**DROP IN** on your child's programs.

**TRUST** your instincts. Share anything with us that seems 'strange'. We are here to listen and provide support.

Learn to recognize and **WATCH** for warning signs of abuse.

**LISTEN AND WATCH** for signs of your child receiving special attention than other children or teens are not receiving.

Periodically **ASK** your child these questions about the adults and peers in their life:

- ⇒ Are you feeling safe at school and at your other activities?
- ⇒ Has anyone said anything to make you feel bad or uncomfortable?
- ⇒ Is anyone saying or doing anything to make you feel unsafe?

**EDUCATE** your child about self-protection, including information about strangers and good and bad touches.

**LEARN** to control the stress level of yourself and family members.

**COMMUNICATE** with your child and really listen to their concerns.

**RECOGNIZE** the fact that most abuse happens by people that children know and trust.

**BECOME AWARE** of your community resources.

**KNOW** where your children are and who their friends are.

**TEACH** your children to be open and honest with you; that they can always tell you the truth.