

# MANDATORY REPORTING AND PARENTAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Child Protection Accountability Commission



In Delaware, substance abuse constitutes child neglect when a parent or caregiver chronically engages in substance abuse and the abuse negatively impacts the care of the child.

The Division of Family Services will become involved with parental substance abuse cases listed in the box on the right.

All suspected child abuse and neglect must be reported to the DFS Report Line. If the child is in immediate danger, call 911

SEE THE SIGNS,  
MAKE THE CALL.

**800-292-9582**

[iseethesigns.delaware.gov](http://iseethesigns.delaware.gov)

## **Infants with Prenatal Substance Exposure**

Healthcare providers are required to notify DFS of infants born with prenatal substance exposure.

## **Chronic and Severe Substance Abuse**

The parent/caregiver has a substance abuse problem that interferes with their daily life **and** the substance abuse problem negatively impacts the **care or supervision** of the child to the extent that there is risk of neglect or abuse.

## **Reckless Behavior Involving the Child**

The parent/caregiver behaves in ways that are likely to result in serious injury to the child.

## **Examples of When a Report is Required**

- Child appears to be intoxicated, drugged, or nonresponsive
- Child has access to drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Parent/Caregiver co-sleeps with an infant while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Parent/Caregiver is impaired while driving or intending to drive the child

**\*In these situations, an immediate call to 911 should be made before making a mandated report**