

**IC 31-33**

**ARTICLE 33. JUVENILE LAW: REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

**IC 31-33-1**

**Chapter 1. General Provisions**

**IC 31-33-1-1**

**Purpose of article**

Sec. 1. The purpose of this article is to:

- (1) encourage effective reporting of suspected or known incidents of child abuse or neglect;
- (2) provide effective child services to quickly investigate reports of child abuse or neglect;
- (3) provide protection for an abused or a neglected child from further abuse or neglect;
- (4) provide rehabilitative services for an abused or a neglected child and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian; and
- (5) establish a centralized statewide child abuse registry and an automated child protection system.

*As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.16. Amended by P.L.234-2005, SEC.94.*

**IC 31-33-1-2**

**Judge may directly contact local DCS office**

Sec. 2. When confronted with a potential case of child abuse or neglect, a judge who wishes to contact the department shall first use the child abuse hotline to report the suspected child abuse or neglect to the department. If the:

- (1) judge does not obtain a response from the child abuse hotline; or
- (2) response the judge obtains from the hotline will not, in the opinion of the judge, serve the best interests of the child;

the judge may contact a local office of the department directly to report the suspected child abuse or neglect.

*As added by P.L.158-2013, SEC.317.*