

9 Reporting child sexual abuse to Police

Child sexual abuse is a crime in Australia. It includes grooming, sexual touching and sexual intercourse. It also includes making, possessing and sharing sexually explicit content of children such as photos, videos or writing.

For more information about grooming, visit the Tasmania Police website:
www.police.tas.gov.au/what-we-do/family-and-sexual-violence/grooming/

Why report child sexual abuse to the police?

Under Tasmanian law you must report child sexual abuse to the police.

The police investigate crimes and collect evidence. This evidence can be used to prove what happened. The police may use the information you give them to help keep other people safe.

How to report child sexual abuse to the police

In an emergency, call **000**.

If it is not an emergency, you can call Tasmania Police on **131 444** or go to your local police station.

Anybody affected by sexual harm can visit Arch in Hobart or Launceston for support options including sex crimes counselling and speaking with specialist detectives. More information is at www.arch.tas.gov.au.

You can report information about suspicious behaviour to Crimestoppers on **1800 333 000** or at www.crimestoppers.com.au.

You may find it helpful to write down what you want to say before contacting police. You can have a support person with you.

What happens when you report child sexual abuse to the police.

It will be up to the police and, where relevant, the Director of Public Prosecutions to decide whether to charge and prosecute someone for a criminal offence.

For more information, visit the Tasmania Police website: www.police.tas.gov.au/what-we-do/family-and-sexual-violence/sexual-violence/reporting-sexual-violence-to-police/.

Other support

You can discuss concerns about the wellbeing and safety of a child with the Strong Families Advice and Referral Line on **1800 000 123**.

Depending on what has occurred a victim of a crime may consider applying to the court for a protection order.

Victims of crime may seek other assistance from the Victims Support Services on **1300 300 238**.

TasVOCAL can provide free legal advice about compensation options. please call **1300 366 611** and ask for **TasVOCAL**.

Complaints about the police

If you are unhappy about how the police have treated you, you can make a complaint to Tasmania Police or other agencies including the Ombudsman Tasmania or, if it relates to misconduct, to the Integrity Commission Tasmania.

Disclaimer

This fact sheet should not be used as substitute for legal advice. No responsibility is accepted for any loss, damage or injury, financial or otherwise, suffered by any person acting or relying on the information contained within this fact sheet, or omitted from it. You should seek legal advice about your own particular circumstances.

Tasmania Legal Aid acknowledges and pays our respect to the Palawa/Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Lutruwita/Tasmania, where we live and work.

Need legal help?

Freecall, chat online or visit us
Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm

 **1300 366 611** Ask for **TasVOCAL**

 **tasvocal@legalaid.tas.gov.au**

 **www.legalaid.tas.gov.au**

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