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### **New Telephone Directory Makes it Easy to Report Child Abuse**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has launched a new telephone directory so Northwest Ohioans can report suspected child abuse or neglect 24 hours a day. Ohioans who call 855-O-H-CHILD (855-642-4453) will be linked directly to a child welfare or law enforcement office in their county. Reports can be anonymous.

“Ohio has never had one, easy-to-remember number for individuals who suspect child abuse or neglect,” said ODJFS Director Michael Colbert. “We never want a child to be at risk because an adult did not know where to turn for help.”

ODJFS will first introduce the telephone directory in Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Williams, Wood and Wyandot counties. The agency will launch the directory statewide in October.

Ohio’s 88 county public children services agencies are charged with investigating reports of child abuse. Currently, each county has its own phone number and protocol for taking reports. The 855-O-H-CHILD Automated Child Abuse and Neglect Directory will supplement existing county phone numbers by providing one statewide number that automatically redirects callers to the appropriate county.

“If you suspect child abuse or neglect, please speak out,” said Director Colbert. “Call 855-O-H-CHILD, make a report, and stand up for a child in need.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: A public service announcement (PSA) promoting 855-O-H-CHILD is available online at [www.youtube.com/user/OhioJFS](http://www.youtube.com/user/OhioJFS). High-resolution television and radio PSAs can be requested from [benjamin.johnson@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:benjamin.johnson@jfs.ohio.gov).

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