

## **Who Do I Call?**

**By: Bright Tomorrows Staff**

This past week one of our staff was faced with an uncomfortable situation in which she witnessed a child being treated abusively by their parent when at a restaurant. It started quite a discussion at the table and it was clear that when faced with such situations most people are unsure of what to do or who to call.

We often have people call Bright Tomorrows wanting to report their concerns about potential child abuse. While we can answer questions and link and direct them to various services – we are not the agency to report child abuse to.

When faced with an emergent situation, like witnessing something at a restaurant or at the grocery store, the most appropriate number to call is 911. This will go directly to the appropriate police dispatch and they can respond immediately to your concern or what you are witnessing.

It is important to have as much information as possible – if you know names and addresses or a license plate number be sure to write these down to give when you call. In emergency situations it is important to call as soon as possible. People often sit and second guess themselves or feel that they are intruding on someone else's business.

The most important thing to remember is that you could make a life changing difference for a child's life and future. According to Idaho Law it is mandatory that ANYONE who witnesses or suspects child abuse report it to the proper authorities. If there is not a child in immediate danger a person can then look up the number to the local police department or child protection who are the appropriate agencies to report abuse to.

Chubbuck Police Department: 237-7172

Pocatello Police Department: 234-6100

Bannock County Sheriffs: 236-7111

Department of Health and Welfare Family and Children's Services: 239-6200

For more information about Bright Tomorrows or services provided go to [www.brightcac.org](http://www.brightcac.org).