

## **Child Abuse Laws and the EASD**

Child abuse is any mistreatment of a child that results in harm or injury and that has no "reasonable" explanation. By Wis. State Statutes 48.981 (b) the definition of a "child" means any person under 18 years of age. The Wisconsin State Statute (48.981) requires mandated reporters to immediately, upon having reasonable cause to believe there is neglect or physical or sexual abuse has occurred to make a report to the designated authorities. Compliance with the reporting procedures is mandated for teachers, administrators, nurses, social workers, and counselors. These employees are subject to fines and/ or legal action for failure to report any suspected cases. If you believe a child you know has been or is being neglected or physically or sexually abused, please contact the Walworth County Department of Health and Human Service (262) 741-3200.

In 2010, the Walworth County Association for Prevention of Family Violence (APFV) and the Walworth County Child Advocacy Center (WCAC) served 532 sexual assault victims and 3, 273 children of abuse. APFV provides free, confidential services including support groups for victims and their families, 24-hour crisis response, legal and medical advocacy, individual counseling, and information and referral to other community agencies. For more information about APFV services call (262) 723-4653. This phone number is also set up as a 24-hour crisis line after office hours.