

## Information on Illegal Activities

If a situation reported to SOBI involves illegal activity, the matter needs to be investigated through legal authorities. SOBI will wait for the legal authorities to complete their investigation before making any internal decisions or taking further action.

### Allegations of Abuse or Neglect of a Child, or Abuse of an At-Risk Adult

- **At-Risk Adult**
  - Federal Definition: A person sixty years of age or older, or an adult with a disability; and who is unable to protect their own interests or adequately perform or obtain services which are necessary to meet their essential human needs
    - Adult with a disability: any person 18 years of age or older who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more life activities
- **Initial Reporting**
  - If a report involves an allegation of abuse or neglect of a child or at-risk adult:
    - Advise the reporter that if they have any knowledge of or reason to believe that a child or at-risk adult has been abused or neglected, it is in the best interest of the child/adult, *and is required by law in some states*, to immediately report the abuse. Mandatory reporting laws vary from state to state.
    - SOBI should also immediately report the issue. It is not SOBI's responsibility to first investigate the allegation before reporting.
    - To report child abuse or neglect see the [National Council on Child Abuse & Family Violence](#) for each state's reporting phone number.
    - To report abuse of an at-risk adult, find the local Adult Protective Services contact information on [Eldercare Locator](#).
      - Helpful document: [Mandatory Reporting Statutes for Elder Abuse](#)
- **Post-Report Process**
  - Once a report is filed and an investigation is underway, SOBI will wait for the legal authorities to complete their investigation before making any internal decisions or taking further action.

### Allegations of Other Crimes (not included in the previous section)

- **Initial Reporting**
  - If a report involves an allegation of a crime (an action or omission that constitutes an offense that may be prosecuted by the state and is punishable by law), inform the reporter that the matter must first be reported to the appropriate legal authorities (e.g., police, DA's office).
  - Before SOBI can take any action the reporter must provide evidence of this communication to SOBI.

- Requiring legal involvement ensures that serious accusations are handled appropriately through legal channels and not solely in-house by SOBI. This protects the integrity of the Society and all involved parties.
- **Refusal to Act Without Legal Involvement**
  - If the reporter is unwilling to involve the police or legal authorities, SOBI will not pursue the allegation.
- **Post-Report Process**
  - Once a criminal complaint is filed and an investigation is underway, SOBI will wait for the legal authorities to complete their investigation before making any internal decisions or taking further action.