

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DCFS TO KIDS: “YOU ARE NOT ALONE”

Campaign in Illinois schools aims to stop child abuse, help victims

(CHICAGO) – As children return to classrooms across Illinois, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is launching a new statewide “**You are Not Alone**” campaign. The campaign’s goal is to stop child abuse and neglect as well as let child victims know that help is available by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-2873. DCFS is asking all regional school superintendents, private school organizations and others to partner in the effort by distributing 25,000 child abuse prevention posters to public and private schools across the state.

According to the department:

- One in five children are abused or neglected before they turn 18;
- 70 percent of child abuse goes unreported;
- Children tell an average of seven adults they are being mistreated before it is reported to authorities.



In a recent letter to regional school superintendents, DCFS Director Richard Calica asked for their assistance distributing the new posters, available in English and Spanish, to the schools in their region. Calica also urged superintendents to remind all school staff and board members of their duty under Illinois law to immediately call the Child Abuse Hotline whenever they suspect that a child is being harmed or is at risk of harm.

Schools and other organizations that would like to request “You are Not Alone” posters can contact Jennifer Florent at 217-524-1970 or Jennifer.Florent@illinois.gov.

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