

IMPORTANT TERMS IN PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Be Informed

- **Defamation** - When one party damages the character or reputation of another party
 - Libel** - written defamation
 - Slander** - spoken defamation
- **Disclosure** - Disclosure of sexual abuse means a child has chosen you as the person he or she trusts enough to tell. (www.d2l.org)
- **Discovery** - You've witnessed a sexually abusive act by an adult or youth with a child, or you know by some other means that abuse has taken place. (www.d2l.org)
- **False Light** - Publicity to a matter concerning another that publicly puts the other in a false light, provided:
 - The false light would be highly offensive to a reasonable person, and
 - The actor had knowledge of or acted in reckless disregard as to the falsity of the matter and the false light it would cause
- **Force** - Force may refer to physical pressure or intimidating threats of physical pressure, or may refer to emotional coercion, psychological force, or manipulation to coerce a victim into non-consensual sex. (<https://www.rainn.org/articles/sexual-assault>)
- **Forcible Sexual Offenses** - Acts that include forced penal-vaginal intercourse, forced oral or anal sodomy, forced digital or inanimate penetration of a sexual orifice (these are now all known as rape), sexual battery (molestation) and indecent exposure, among others, as well as attempts to perpetrate any of the above. (https://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/1617SA_Toolkit_Call_To_Action_20160929.pdf)

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- **Good Faith Report** – A report involving reasonable suspicion of abuse (see definition of suspicion)
 - Those who report and “act in good faith” are immune from any civil or criminal charges which may result. The reporter has the right to remain confidential and anonymous. (www.tn.gov)
- **Interference with Contract** - A former employer may be liable if he/she intentionally interferes with an existing employment relationship between a former employee and a new employer
- **Mandated Reporter** - Person required by law to report reasonable suspicion of abuse.
 - Everyone in Tennessee is a mandated reporter under state law. Any person with reasonable cause to believe a child is being abused or neglected must, under the law, immediately report to the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services or to local law enforcement. The reporter can remain anonymous.
- **Suspicion** - You’ve seen signs in a child, or you’ve witnessed boundary violations by adults or other youth toward a child, and/or you see physical signs of sexual harm. (www.d21.org)