



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PRESS RELEASE

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Baltimore County DSS Launches New Information, Referral and Screening Number

*Take **TIME** to call on behalf of County residents at risk of harm*

Baltimore County, MD – Persons reporting the suspected abuse and/or neglect of a Baltimore County child or vulnerable adult should call the Baltimore County Department of Social Services' new Information, Referral and Screening number, **410-887-TIME (8463)**. With the roll out of the new phone number, there is no TIME like the present to report suspected abuse or neglect. Taking the time to call for help on behalf of someone at risk of harm can make all the difference for that individual.

"The Baltimore County Department of Social Services stands ready to help those in our community that are vulnerable," said Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., Director of the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services. "We are our brothers' keeper and have a responsibility to say something when we suspect someone is at risk of abuse or neglect. The TIME is always right to make the call."

The TIME phone line will facilitate an even more efficient and timely response on behalf of County residents. Callers reporting suspected abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult speak with screeners that take information needed to assess each situation and determine the appropriate course of action. In addition, County residents who are homeless (or in danger of becoming homeless) can call 410-887-8463 to receive a shelter needs assessment, referral to available resources, and/or information about available homeless shelter beds in Baltimore County.

Hours of operation for **410-887-TIME (8463)** are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. After normal business hours, callers wishing to report suspected abuse or neglect should call the emergency after-hours number (410-583-9398), and callers needing homeless services information should call 410-887-8463 the next business day.

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The [Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS) promotes well-being among individuals and families by providing quality health, housing and social services. Along with an administrative unit, HHS is comprised of the Departments of Health and Social Services.