



# The Reporter

Your Source for Child Abuse Data

3rd Anniversary Special Edition

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## Keeping You Informed

The Office of the Children's Registry (OCR) is pleased to introduce *The Reporter*, an e-zine providing you with statistics of child abuse reports, information on child abuse prevention and updates on OCR activities. The OCR, which began operating in January 2007, celebrated its third anniversary in 2010. This first publication therefore is presented as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary special edition and includes highlights of OCR activities since its inception.

Over its three years of operation, the OCR has played a crucial role in capturing incidents of child abuse in Jamaica. In 2009 alone, the Registry received approximately 6,150 reports of child abuse, some 5,690 more than the 460 reports that were received in 2007 and nearly more than 2,100 more than those received in 2008. In 2010, over 5,700 reports were received.

The marked increase in the number of reports over the period conveys an increased awareness of the OCR and the legal obligation to report child abuse. The increase also suggests a growing confidence in the mission and mandate of the Registry, supporting the need for a confidential and central system to which child abuse reports can be made.

We hope that *The Reporter* will be a source of well needed information and statistics on child abuse and look forward to sharing with you.

## OCR Vision

*The Office of the Children's Registry will be the premier organization to receive reports of known or suspected child abuse, as it will create an atmosphere of confidence for the Jamaican people. It will also act as a catalyst for the establishment of other Children's Registries in the Caribbean.*

## OCR Mission

*The Office of the Children's Registry provides a confidential central system to receive, record, assess and refer reports for investigation and maintains a register of child abuse reports.*

# Highlights of OCR Activities 2007-2010

Over the three year period, the Office of the Children’s Registry (OCR) embarked upon several activities aimed at increasing awareness about child abuse and reporting, capacity building and forging partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

## Public Education

Over 100 presentations and consultations were conducted with various groups including schools, churches, hospitals, etc. In 2009, over 20 consultations were held with prescribed persons (individuals, who due to their profession, are mandated by law to report known or suspected child abuse). The aim of the consultations was to sensitize the participants about the role of the OCR as well as the duties of prescribed persons under the Child Care & Protection Act.



Police officers listen attentively during a consultation with the OCR

Eight of these consultations were held at several Police Divisions across the island, with over 100 Police Officers being sensitized about the role of the OCR and its partner

## OCR 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Highlights

As part of its 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary activities, the OCR held a Church Service on Sunday January 24, 2010 at the Full Truth Church of God Deliverance Centre. Amongst some of the representatives who were in attendance and who brought greetings were Bishop the Hon. Dr. Carmen Lois Stewart O.J., O.D., J.P, Custos of St. Andrew who represented the Governor General; the Hon. Rudyard Spencer, M.P., Minister of Health who represented the Prime Minister and Mrs. Alison McLean, former Chief Executive Officer of the Child Development

agencies - the Child Development Agency and the Office of the Children’s Advocate. The other consultations were held in the various regions of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and targeted teachers and healthcare professionals respectively. The consultations continue with other groups of prescribed persons as well as children.

## Study Tour



Former OCR Registrar Carla Francis Edie and Public Education Specialist Trevesa DaSilva Ashman meet with NYSCR staff during the study tour

Two representatives from the OCR participated in a study tour of the New York State Central Register in December 2009. The study tour, which was funded by UNICEF Jamaica, allowed for the representatives to learn best practices and gain first hand knowledge about operating a child abuse registry. The representatives have since worked with the rest of the OCR management team to develop an operational manual which will guide the operations of the Registration Centre, where the reports are managed.

# OCR 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Highlights

(cont’d from bottom left)



From left, Mrs. Alison McLean, Hon Rudyard Spencer, Hon Carmen Stewart and a minister of the church at the service

Other key supporters at the service included UNICEF, Office of the Children’s Advocate and Hear the Children’s Cry.

The OCR also published a 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Supplement in the Sunday Gleaner on January 31, 2010. The Supplement featured information on OCR & child abuse statistics as well as congratulatory messages and advertisements from partners.

The OCR wishes to use this opportunity to once again thank all those who supported both the Church Service and the Supplement.



OCR Staff at the church service

# OCR Implements System to Better Capture Data



The Office of the Children’s Registry (OCR) has implemented a system which allows for easier capturing and processing of information relating to reports that are received. The Children’s Registry Processing (CRPro) System was introduced to the relevant OCR staff at a training held in February.

The CRPro training, which was facilitated by the OCR’s Statistician, Ms. Sheri Harris, included theoretical and practical sessions and saw the OCR’s five Registration Officers and two Senior Registration Officers getting hands on training in the use of the system.



Senior Registration Officer M. McDermott and Registration Officer A. Bailey get familiar with the CRPro system

The CRPro was designed by Ms. Harris using the Census and Survey Processing System (CSPPro), a data processing software package developed by the US Census Bureau. The CRPro facilitates the capture, storage and retrieval of inputted

information. A key feature of the programme is its capacity to perform interactive and post-entry editing, which will facilitate improved quality outputs. The system will also enable the OCR to better monitor updates of cases that were referred to its partner agencies for investigation. In addition, the OCR will be better placed to respond to the data needs of the public, including the provision of disaggregated data.



Registration Officer M. Pryce smiles as she gets acquainted with the CRPro system

## Thank You!

The OCR wishes to thank all its partners as well as other individuals and agencies who have contributed to the development of the nation’s first Children’s Registry over its 3 years of operation. **Muchas Gracias!**

# Highlights of OCR Activities (Cont’d from P 2)

## Partnerships

Over the period, partnerships were forged with several entities/ individuals which allowed for several projects to become a reality.

**UNICEF Jamaica** has proven to be the OCR’s biggest partner to date and has provided both technical and financial assistance. In addition to sponsoring the New York study tour, UNICEF supplied the OCR with office furniture and supplies including computers, fax machines, a photocopier and a server. UNICEF also provided funding for several public education activities as well as a baseline study of the public’s knowledge, attitude, practices and behaviours towards child abuse and reporting.

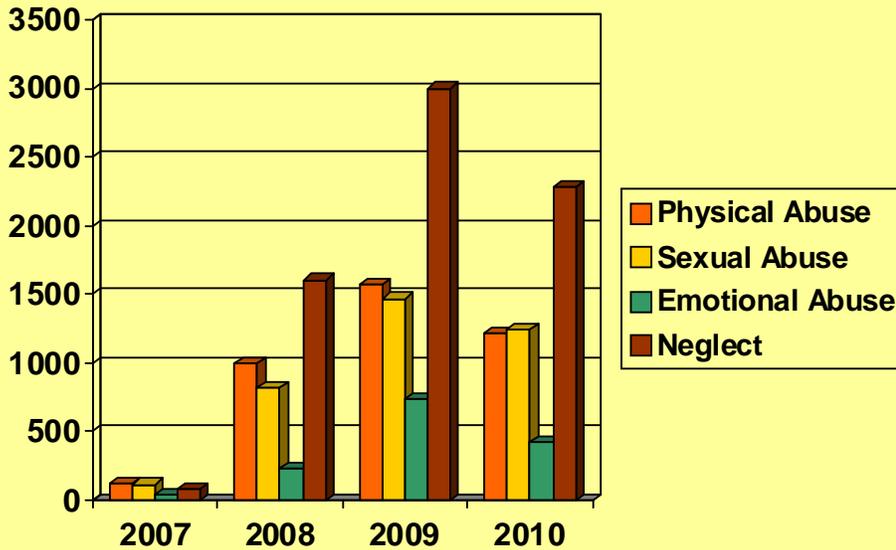
**Global Directories Ltd.**, the producers of LIME’s Telephone Directory also partnered with the OCR by advertising the OCR’s toll free line 1-888-PROTECT in the Yellow Pages of the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 Telephone Directories. In addition, LIME (formerly Cable & Wireless) Foundation continues to sponsor the toll free line which persons call to report child abuse.

**Caribbean Retail Networks** also partnered with the OCR by providing free advertising via their digital signs, to encourage persons to report child abuse. The OCR messages may be seen on digital signs in over 10 pharmacies & supermarkets and 4 Paymaster locations across the island.

**The Gist**, a new media company under the direction of *Danah Cameron*, designed the OCR’s logo free of cost.

## Statistical Data – Child Abuse Reports

**Table 1: Number of Reports received by the OCR by main category of abuse and year, 2007-2010**



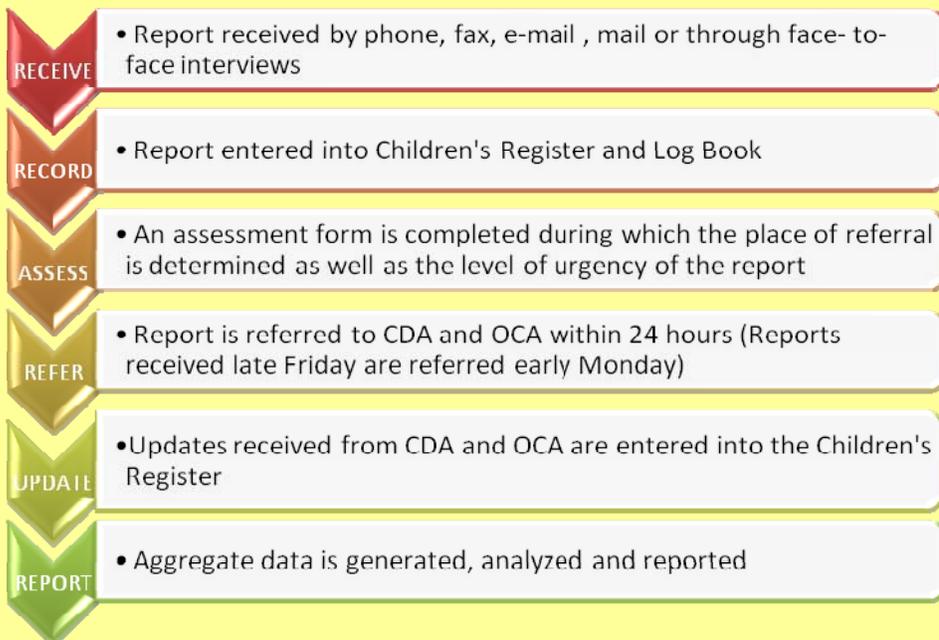
Source: Office of the Children's Registry (OCR)

Note: (i) Figures shown for 2010 refer to reports received for the period Jan – Sept 2010.

(ii) In 2007-2009 some incidents of sexual abuse were classified only as the specific type of sexual abuse to which the incident refers (E.g. incest, carnal abuse, rape) and may not have been included in the overall count of sexual abuse against children shown in the overall total above.

## Reporting Process

Ever wondered what exactly happens when you make a report to the Office of the Children's Registry? The following steps outline the reporting process:



## Get the Facts

### How to Make a Report

Once you know or suspect child abuse, you must make a report to the Office of the Children's Registry. A report may be made to the Children's Registry by several means:

- Call 1-888-PROTECT (1-888-776-8328) or 908-2132 or 822-7031 or 878-2882.
- Complete the prescribed reporting form and submit it to our office at 12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 (forms are available at the Children's Registry or at CDA offices islandwide)
- Fax your report to 908-2579
- Email your report to [ocrjamaica@yahoo.com](mailto:ocrjamaica@yahoo.com)

**Persons may call the Children's Registry Mondays to Fridays between the hours 7:00am-11:00pm to make reports**

### What to Include in a Report

A report should include enough information to help the authorities identify and locate the child in question. Vital information to be included is:

- Name, age and sex of child
- Names and addresses of parents/guardians
- The school that the relevant child attends
- Details of the incident being reported and any knowledge of previous abandonment, neglect or ill-treatment of the relevant child and relevant dates
- Identity and other details of the alleged perpetrator
- Any other information that the reporter has which can assist in the intervention and completion of the report

***N.B. Not all cases reported will result in criminal charges or children being separated from their families.***

# Parenting Tips: Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

Did you know that children go through different developmental stages? If you are a parent, it helps when you know what to expect at each stage and how to respond appropriately. In this issue, we will share with you the expected behavioral patterns of children aged between 0-5 years old and parenting tips for each.

Child's Age	Behavioural Pattern	Parent's Response
<b>0-2 Years Old</b>  	Helpless and in need of constant attention	Ensure that you cater to your child's needs
	Enjoys being cuddled	Show constant affection, give frequent hugs and kisses
	Curious and exploratory	Be your child's first source of information. Explain as they explore
	Upset when separated from parent(s)	Reassure child and help him/her adjust to new settings
	Throws temper tantrums and displays negativism	Remain calm and in control. Ignore tantrums, give time-outs, discuss and enforce family rules that work for your household. Be consistent with punishment
	Copies parents' actions	Be careful of what you say or do. Child will mimic both good and bad behaviour
<b>3 – 5 Years Old</b>  	Wants to socialize	Help child to make friends and encourage playtime
	Child is clingy and possessive	Teach independence. Help child dress himself/herself etc.
	Displays competitive behaviour	Reward and encourage success. Help child to identify weaknesses and encourage child to keep trying
	Insists on routine	Be consistent and enforce discipline. Establish routines for meal and bed times, potty training, etc. and stick to them
	Curious about own body as well as other children's bodies	Teach child about good and bad touch and help him/her understand the human body
	Child identifies with imaginary friends	This type of behaviour is common. But if you are concerned, consult your family physician

## More Parenting Tips: Back to School

Here are some useful tips to help your child during his/her school 'daze' in the New Year:

- ✓ Be your child's friend. Talk to your child about any issues that might be affecting him/her and help him/her come up with possible solutions.
- ✓ Help your child achieve his/her academic goals. Ensure your child is enrolled in and attend school and that he/she is provided with nutritious meals and have the required school materials
- ✓ Maintain a good working relationship with your child's teachers and track his/her progress.
- ✓ If your child gets home before you do, ensure that your child is left in the care of a responsible adult at all times.
- ✓ Encourage your child to stay away from unhealthy habits such as substance abuse (including alcohol, marijuana & cigarettes) as they can be harmful to his/her physical, emotional & mental well-being. Substance abuse can also lead to negative changes in your child's behaviour, so be on the alert for any changes.

### REMEMBER TO C.A.R.E.

- C**- reate a stable and safe home environment for your child
- A**- lways ensure that your child is supervised by a responsible adult
- R**- einforce positive moral values and attitudes in your home
- E**- xplore saving options that will allow you to provide for all of your child's basic needs (food, clothing, health care, education, etc).

## FUN CORNER!

See if you can find, in the puzzle below, the following words that were mentioned in the Parenting Tips section of this issue.

BABY	INDEPENDENCE
CALM	KISS
CAREFUL	PARENTS
COMPETITIVE	POSSESSIVE
CONSISTENT	PRAISE
CONTROL	SOCIALIZE
CUDDLE	SOURCE
ENCOURAGE	SUCCESS
EXPLORE	TIME-OUT
FRIENDS	TODDLER
HELPLESS	TOUCH
HUG	TRAIN
IMAGINE	

T O U C H Y B A B C Q P E N C  
 Q T Y Z Y X E O O I M O G I O  
 I Z Y F E N E N V I I E A A M  
 Q N E V I S S E S S O P R R P  
 E V D G E I Q C J B P Y U T E  
 L Z A E S X A K R B R C O E T  
 R M I T P R P I I S A O C N I  
 I E E L E E S L O S I N N I T  
 G N L F A C N U O C S T E T I  
 T U U D A I R D C R E R U U V  
 F L H L D C C C E C E O H O E  
 F E M Q E O A O L N E L R R W  
 E L D D U C T K S M C S G J T  
 H E L P L E S S I D D E S V I  
 S T N E R A P T F R I E N D S

## Useful Contact Info

**Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (C.I.S.O.C.A.)**

3 Ruthven Road, Kingston 10  
 Tel: 926-4079 or 926-7318

**Child Development Agency**

48 Duke Street, Kingston  
 Tel: 948-2841-2 or 948-7067

**Child Guidance Clinic**

Psychiatric Department  
 University Hospital of the West  
 Indies, Mona, Kingston 7  
 Tel: 927-2492

**Coalition for Better Parenting**

1 National Heroes Circle, Kingston 4  
 Tel: 948-1886

**Early Childhood Commission**

8 – 10 Ocean Blvd., Kingston  
 Tel: 922-6938 or 922-9295-7

**Family Court**

79 Duke Street, Kingston  
 Tel: 922-0001 or 922-4821

**Office of the Children's Advocate**

72 Harbour Street, Kingston  
 Tel: 967-5890 or 967-3325

**Office of the Children's Registry**

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10  
 - For reports call 1-888-PROTECT (776-8328)/ 908-2132  
 - For other matters call 908-1690

**Victim Support Unit**

47e Old Hope Road, Kingston 5  
 Tel: 946-0663 or 946-9287 or 978-8071

**OCR E-ZINE TEAM**

**Cassetta Green**  
 (Chair)

**Natalie Thompson**

**Trevesa DaSilva**  
 (Design & layout)

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