

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

POLICY GUIDE 2021.01

**PROCEDURES 300, APPENDIX B
ALLEGATION 22: SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF SEXUAL INJURY**

DATE: January 26, 2021
TO: State Central Register and Child Protection Employees
FROM: Marc D. Smith, Acting Director
EFFECTIVE: Immediately

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy Guide is to provide clarity and direction regarding Rule 300 Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect Allegation 22B and Procedures 300 Allegation 22B to ensure consistency in practice throughout the state.

II. PRIMARY USERS

State Central Register and Child Protection staff

III. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Rule 300 Allegation #22 Substantial Risk of Sexual Injury is defined as: “Substantial risk of sexual injury means that the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, or the parent’s paramour has created a real and significant danger of sexual abuse as explained in the following options.”

Option B is identified when reports are made to the hotline alleging that “there are siblings or other children in the same household as an alleged perpetrator of a current allegation of sexual abuse; or there is credible information/evidence of a child sexual abuse that did not meet Department eligibility requirements for a report to be taken (e.g., an ineligible victim or the victim discloses after attaining the age of 18) and the alleged perpetrator has current access to children.”

IV. INSTRUCTIONS

State Central Register (SCR) Child Welfare Specialists shall ask additional questions to obtain any information that would confirm current access to children, which only exists when an eligible perpetrator is presently in a caregiver role. **Without this evidence, the criteria for Allegation #22 Option B has not been met.** SCR Child Welfare Specialists will process the information provided as usual, including searching for an open service



case and open investigations and assessing the information for a possible case work service referral or licensing referral. If the reporter is not law enforcement, the SCR Child Welfare Specialist shall complete a CANTS 25A to initiate a local law enforcement referral. If the reporter is the alleged adult victim, the Child Welfare Specialist shall assess the reporter's service needs and link to community resources as needed.

Upon receiving an investigation for Allegation #22B, Child Protection Specialists shall only interview children who have been specifically named and identified as alleged victims. Investigative activities must include diligent efforts to identify possible victims. This shall include, but not be limited to, interviewing the reporter and OPWIs, as well as collaborating with local law enforcement. **The Child Protection Specialist shall never interview a random sample of children.**

V. NEW, REVISED AND/OR OBSOLETE FORMS

Not Applicable

VI. QUESTIONS

Questions concerning this Policy Guide should be directed to the Office of Child and Family Policy by emailing the DCFS.Policy on Outlook. Persons and agencies not on Outlook can e-mail questions to DCFS.Policy@illinois.gov.

VII. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File immediately after Page 2 of Procedures 300, Appendix B, Allegation 22.