

# REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

September 16, 2022 – PT 2022.09

## 300.APPENDIX B – THE ALLEGATIONS SYSTEM

### a) Purpose of the Allegation System

The allegations identify and define specific types of moderate to severe harm, provide a framework for decision-making by SCR and investigative staff, and provide an important investigation tracking and record-keeping function. To fulfill the purposes of the allegation-based system, it is essential that the allegations are narrowly defined and used consistently throughout the state. The Child Protection Specialist must refer to the specific allegation and the factors endemic to that allegation, to guide him/her in making a final finding.

**Note:** If investigative activities reveal an additional allegation is needed or a more appropriate allegation is needed to replace the allegation originally assigned, the Child Protection Specialist should identify and assign the most appropriate allegation.

### b) Allegations

The allegation system defines moderate to severe harm or the risk of moderate to severe harm of a child. Many of the allegations are categorized as either abuse **or** neglect. All abuse allegations of harm are coded with a one or two-digit number, 40 and under. All neglect allegations of harm are coded with a two-digit number greater than 50. The allegations of harm are categorized and coded as follows:

ABUSE		NEGLECT	
#1	Death	#51	Death
#2	Head Injuries	#52	Head Injuries
#4	Internal Injuries	#54	Internal Injuries
#5	Burns	#55	Burns
#6	Poison/Noxious Substances	#56	Poison/Noxious Substances
#7	Wounds	#57	Wounds
#9	Bone Fractures	#59	Bone Fractures
#10	Substantial Risk of Physical Injury/Environment Injurious to Health and Welfare	#60	Substantial Risk of Physical Injury/Environment Injurious to Health and Welfare
#11	Cuts, Bruises, Welts, Abrasions and Oral Injuries	#61	Cuts, Bruises, Welts, Abrasions and Oral Injuries
#12	Human Bites	#62	Human Bites

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<b>ABUSE</b>		<b>NEGLECT</b>	
#13	Sprains/Dislocations	#63	Sprains/Dislocations
#14	Tying/Close Confinement		Abuse Only
#15	Substance Misuse	#65	Substance Misuse
#16	Torture		Abuse Only
#17	Mental and Emotional Impairment	#67	Mental and Emotional Impairment
#18	Sexually Transmitted Diseases		Abuse Only
#19	Sexual Penetration		Abuse Only
#20	Sexual Exploitation		Abuse Only
#21	Sexual Molestation		Abuse Only
#22	Substantial Risk of Sexual Injury		Abuse Only
#40	Human Trafficking of Children	#90	Human Trafficking of Children
	Neglect Only	#74	Inadequate Supervision
	Neglect Only	#75	Abandonment/Desertion
	Neglect Only	#76	Inadequate Food
	Neglect Only	#77	Inadequate Shelter
	Neglect Only	#78	Inadequate Clothing
	Neglect Only	#79	Medical Neglect
	Neglect Only	#81	Failure to Thrive (Non-Organic)
	Neglect Only	#82	Environmental Neglect
	Neglect Only	#83	Malnutrition (Non-Organic)
	Neglect Only	#84	Lock-out
	Neglect Only	#85	Medical Neglect of Disabled Infants
	Neglect Only	#86	Neglect by Agency

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**c) Persons Who May Be Considered Perpetrators of Child Abuse or Neglect**

The following guidelines clarify which persons may be considered perpetrators of child abuse or neglect.

<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>ABUSE</b>	<b>NEGLECT</b>
<i>PARENTS</i>		
Legal and/or Biological Parents (Includes Non-Custodial Parents)	X	X
Step Parents	X	X
Adoptive Parents	X	X
<i>IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS</i>		
Biological Brothers and Sisters	X	See Note
Step-Brothers and Sisters	X	See Note
Adopted Brothers and Sisters	X	See Note
Biological Grandfather and Grandmother	X	See Note
Adopted Grandfather and Grandmother	X	See Note
<i>INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN THE SAME HOME AS THE CHILD</i>		
May Include Foster Brothers and Sisters	X	See Note

(To determine residency, the person should maintain clothing and personal effects at the address, receive mail at or have identification using the address or otherwise identify the residence as his or her home. Visitors or short-term guests are not included in this category.)

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<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>ABUSE</b>	<b>NEGLECT</b>
<i>PARAMOUR</i>		
Parent’s “Boyfriend” or “Girlfriend”	X	See Note
<p>“Paramour” means a significant other (e.g., boyfriend, girlfriend, lover, partner, friend or putative father who is involved in an intimate/romantic relationship with one of the custodial parents of the children who come to the official attention of the Department through a child abuse or neglect investigation and/or open case; does not have a legally recognized and/or <i>significant, continuous and stable</i> relationship with all of the children; may or may not live in the same household of the custodial parent of the involved children.</p>		
<i>PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHILD’S WELFARE (CARETAKER)</i>		
Legal Guardian of the Child	X	X
Foster Parents	X	X
Relative Caretakers	X	X
Day Care Home Caregivers (Regardless of whether licensed or license-exempt. Includes home or other persons residing in the home)	X	X
Day Care Center Employees (Includes all employees and volunteers who have direct contact with children)	X	X
Residential Care Facility Employees (Includes all employees and volunteers who have direct contact with children)	X	X
Other Caretakers or Baby-Sitters (When the child’s parent or legal guardian has a verbal or written agreement for the person to assume responsibility for the child’s care during the parent or guardian’s absence. Includes home caregiver and other persons residing in the home.)	X	X

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<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>ABUSE</b>	<b>NEGLECT</b>
Other Persons Any other person responsible for the child’s welfare at the time of the alleged abuse or neglect. Included in this category are health care professionals, educational personnel, recreational supervisors, and volunteers or support personnel in any setting where children may be subject to abuse or neglect.	X	X

**Note:** In accordance with ANCRA, an immediate family member, other person residing in the same home as the child or the parent's paramour cannot be alleged as the perpetrator of child neglect unless they were acting as the child's caretaker when the incident occurred.

**d) Reasonable Effort to Protect a Child**

ANCRA includes in its definition of abuse, persons who “*allow[] to be inflicted upon such child physical injury, by other than accidental means.*” 325 ILCS 5/3. If a parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, or the parent’s paramour **fails to make reasonable effort** to protect a child from physical injury caused by other than accidental means, he/she can be an alleged perpetrator of **abuse**, rather than neglect. “Reasonable effort” refers to the effort a person responsible for the welfare of a child should be expected to make in order to protect a child, without posing an imminent threat to his or her safety.

**Note:** Minors are not expected to intervene between an adult and another child.

**e) Harm or Imminent Risk of Harm Caused by the Blatant Disregard of Parental or Caregiver Responsibilities**

- 1) *"Blatant disregard" means an incident where the real, significant, and imminent risk of harm would be so obvious to a reasonable parent or caretaker that it is unlikely that a reasonable parent or caretaker would have exposed the child to the danger without exercising precautionary measures to protect the child from harm. [325 ILCS 5/3]*

**Example:** A home daycare provider, with a pool or pond on their property, who fails to provide adequate supervision or take necessary precautions to prevent a child from drowning.

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- 2) Allegations #74-85 are neglect allegations. All other allegations can be either abuse or neglect depending on the facts and circumstances. A child may sustain moderate to severe harm (e.g., brain damage, death, etc.) because of the "**blatant disregard**" of the parent or caregiver in his or her responsibility to oversee and protect the child. In such instances, the harm is the same to the child, however the cause is attributable to **neglect**, not abuse.

### f) Special Assessments in Cases of Egregious Acts

- 1) The Department has identified certain acts of maltreatment deemed egregious that require a special assessment by the Office of Legal Services (OLS) and the Division of Clinical Practice and Professional Development (Clinical). This special assessment will determine the need to by-pass reunification, seek a permanency goal other than reunification, and/or seek expedited termination of parental rights. If information identifying an egregious act is gathered at the time of the intake by SCR or during the course of the investigation, the report must be flagged as an egregious act case to alert the Child Protection Specialist and the Child Protection Supervisor that the case must be referred to OLS and Clinical. Maltreatment is considered egregious if it is an egregious, sadistic, or torturous act that inflicts significant pain, causes extensive external and/or internal bruising, serious injury, or death.
- 2) Egregious acts include but are not limited to:
  - A) Perpetrator repeatedly threw or slammed an infant or toddler against a hard surface using a strong degree of force creating a likelihood of abusive head trauma or multiple injuries including bruising or fractures over time.
  - B) Perpetrator caused abusive abdominal injuries, especially in very young children.
  - C) Perpetrator submerged and held a child's head under water or repeatedly submerged a child's head creating a significant real or imminent risk of harm.
  - D) Perpetrator beat up or hit a child with an object using a degree of force that could be reasonably expected to cause serious injury or death.
  - E) Perpetrator attempted to or actually smothered, choked, strangled, or applied any other severe thoracic compression to a child.
  - F) Perpetrator extensively burned or scalded a child on purpose.

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- G) Perpetrator threatened or attacked a child with a weapon, such as a knife, gun, or combustible substance.
- H) Perpetrator took a child hostage.
- I) Sadistic injury to a child.
- J) Homicide of a child.
- K) Non-accidental poisoning.

### **g) Outline of an Allegation**

- 1) While each allegation contained in this section is unique and identifies specific contacts, activities, factors to be considered, and documentation that must be applied and performed when investigating that specific allegation, there are certain contact, activities, and documentation the Child Protection Specialist must apply and perform for ALL allegations. These functions are listed below. A requirement of every investigation is that the Child Protection Specialist gather and consider all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.

- 2) THE CHILD PROTECTION SPECIALIST AND SUPERVISOR MUST REVIEW EACH ALLEGATION TO DETERMINE IF THERE ARE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OR INSTRUCTIONS FOR A SPECIFIC ALLEGATION.

**Example:** As a part of the initial contact with an alleged victim, the Child Protection Specialist is instructed to complete an assessment that includes photographs and a body chart for any injury or harm the alleged victim may have. A Child Protection Specialist must NEVER photograph an alleged victim of sexual abuse. The instructions for observing and assessing an alleged child abuse victim are contained within those specific allegations.

- 3) The requirements and guidelines for completing investigations are outlined below. Each allegation contains the following information:
  - A) **Definition of Allegation**
  - B) **Taking a Report**
  - C) Factors to be considered (Not applicable to all allegations)

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### D) Investigating the Report

- i) Allegation Specific Required Contacts/Consultations
- ii) Allegation Specific Required Activities
- iii) Allegation Specific Required Documentation/Evidence
- iv) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

### h) Contacts, Activities, and Documentation Required for ALL Allegations

#### 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

- A) Interview the reporter/source and other persons with information (OPWI) identified in the current report and related information reports.

#### Reporter Specific Questions

- i) Suggested introductory statement to reporter:

“I am a child protection specialist and received this report for investigation that you reported to our hotline. The department is grateful for your concern for the safety of children. I want to hear from you directly what you reported to our hotline but am hoping to start with a few general questions to help me get to understand the situation fully.”

- ii) Can you tell me about how you came to know the people involved in this report? When did you first meet them?
- iii) Although you already reported the information to our hotline, as the assigned investigator, please describe for me all the information you have regarding the situation, including any new information you may have since the time you reported.
- iv) Who else do you suggest I contact to more fully understand this situation so that I can complete a thorough investigation?
- v) How would you describe the family strengths? What are their supports?



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- vi) As I work to ensure the safety of the child(ren) brought to the Department's attention, I can only do that if I myself am safe. Do you have any information that may be important for me to know to ensure my safety as I engage the family?
  - vii) Is there anything I did not ask you that you would like me to know?
- B) Interview the alleged child victim(s) in person and individually.
- i) Complete an assessment that includes photographs and body chart of any physical injury or harm. Complete a safety assessment (**CERAP**) within 24 hours. Non-verbal children must be thoroughly observed and assessed.
  - ii) However, the Child Protection Specialist should not interview the alleged child victim if, per local protocol, the case is Forensic Interview (FI) eligible or the alleged child victim is a child with developmental disabilities. The Child Protection Specialist shall refer the involved child to the local CAC for all FI, as soon as possible, if one has not already been conducted. If the victim is "unsafe," per the **CERAP**, every attempt must be made to arrange an emergency FI.
  - iii) **Forensic Interviewers and Working with Child Advocacy Centers**  
Child Protection investigators play an important role with their Child Advocacy Center as part of a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach. If possible, a multidisciplinary team approach to an investigation is preferred. When a Child Protection Specialist is also acting as a Forensic Interviewer for the team, the Child Protection Specialist must first complete 32 hours of approved initial training and maintain a minimum of 8 hours continuing education every two years. To maintain Forensic Interviewer status, the Child Protection Specialist must also participate in the peer review process of their work twice yearly. As a member of an MDT, the Child Protection Specialist shall participate in monthly reviews of their cases. If not available, the Child Protection Supervisor should attend. To hone skills as part of an MDT, the Child Protection Specialist shall also participate in educational opportunities that are cross-discipline in nature. The Department shall designate a person who will be responsible for formalizing inter-agency agreements and policies across Child Advocacy Centers and MDTs.

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- iv) The Child Protection Specialist must ask the alleged child victim if there is an extended family member, another adult or caretaker that he or she feels safe with, important or special to. If the alleged child victim is interviewed by a Forensic Interviewer, the Child Protection Specialist shall coordinate with the Forensic Interviewer to ensure that the alleged child victim is asked this question. Persons identified by the alleged child victim shall be interviewed.
- C) Interview the parent/caregiver in person and individually. Efforts to interview a parent/caregiver must be attempted on the same day the children in the home are contacted, if possible. If a safety threat is determined to be present, the parent/caregiver must be interviewed immediately to continue to assess safety. The following suggested questions are intended to ensure that all information, both inculpatory and exculpatory, is gathered. These are suggested questions and are intended to be a starting point for the gathering of information. Additional questions may be asked to ensure that complete information is gathered and documented.

### **Common Questions for All Injuries**

i) Child's Capabilities

What is the child typically capable of doing by themselves? What is their developmental ability, related to both speech and movement?

ii) Typical or Usual Behavior and Appearance

When did you last see the child act in their usual manner, including eating and drinking, peeing and pooping, breathing and body movement?

iii) Timeline

a) What is the child's daily routine? (sleeping/waking, eating/drinking, bathing, etc.)

b) Tell me the detailed events leading up to the injury.

1) What was the first thing you noticed? What was the child doing right before that?

2) Where was the child when the injury occurred? Where were you?

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- 3) Was the event witnessed? If so, by whom?
  - 4) Who else was around the child? Who else has had access to the child (E.g. babysitters, daycare, grandparents, school, etc.)?
  - 5) If applicable, what did the injury look like when first noticed?
- c) Take me through the two to three days prior to the injury in detail.
- 1) Any medical symptoms?
  - 2) Tell me the child's feeding/drinking habits in the past 2-3 days
  - 3) Tell me the child's sleeping habits in the past 2-3 days
  - 4) Tell me the child's activity level/activities in the past 2-3 days
- d) What did you do first when you noticed the injury? Did you seek any assistance or advice? If so, from whom?
- e) What did you do for treatment of the injury?
- f) Name all of the caregivers for the child in the past 2 weeks who had alone time with the child, and please describe the timeframes of their caregiving.
- g) Did you have concerns about your child's safety with any of those named above?
- iv) Reenactment
- Can you reenact the incident?
- D) Interview in person and individually all other adults and verbal children in the alleged child **victim's** household. Non-verbal children must be thoroughly observed and assessed.

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- E) Conduct an interview with the alleged perpetrator in person and individually. The Child Protection Specialist should consult with law enforcement prior to the interview to avoid compromising any criminal investigation.
- F) Notify the custodial parent or legal caregiver of a child involved in the investigation of a facility or caregiver other than the parent. This includes the DCFS Guardianship Administrator if the child is a youth in care.
- G) Notify and interview the non-custodial parent.
- H) Interview in person and individually all other adults and verbal children in the alleged **perpetrator's** household. Non-verbal children must be thoroughly observed and assessed.
- I) Interview all identified witnesses that are reported to have information of the alleged incident.
- J) Law enforcement shall be notified verbally and in writing (**CANTS 14**) within 24 hours of receipt of the report if necessary.
- K) Notify the State's Attorney verbally and in writing within 24 hours of receipt of the report if necessary.
- L) Interview the alleged child victim's primary medical provider as well as any other medical providers that have treated the alleged child victim within the past twelve (12) months.
- M) If the police have conducted an investigation, interview the police source in person or by telephone. DCFS and local law enforcement should cooperate in conducting investigations.
- N) Interview paramedics called to the scene.
- O) Interview hospital personnel with information if the alleged child victim was transported to a hospital for treatment.
- P) Interview the DCFS or private agency worker if the family has an open service case or a service case that was closed.

**Note:** If a pregnant or parenting youth in care is the subject of a pending and/or indicated investigation, Teen Parent Service Network must be notified.

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- Q) For those children enrolled in school or daycare, interview the children's school teachers, other school personnel and/or child care providers that have knowledge of the children and/or the level of care provided to the children.
  - R) Interview other professional collaterals who may have information of the alleged child victim's injury that may be pertinent to the investigation.
  - S) The family or subjects should be asked to identify at least two (2) collateral contacts who must be interviewed either by telephone or in person.
  - T) Verbally notify and interview the Guardian ad Litem if the alleged child victim is a DCFS youth in care or a ward of the court (E.g., a child home with a parent under an order of protection).
  - U) Interview child protective services in other states where subjects of the report have resided.
  - V) Interview the DCFS nurse if the nurse has had prior involvement with the family.
  - W) Interview any social service professionals who have or had involvement with or knowledge of the alleged child victim and/or family.
  - X) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) Complete a person search/CANTS 19 and **within 48 hours** request a LEADS check of household members and other subjects regularly frequenting or living in the home. The Child Protection Specialist shall review LEADS for all subjects, including those involved in the safety assessment.
- B) When assigned an SOR of a pending investigation, contact and confer with the Child Protection Specialist of the pending investigation.
- C) Thoroughly read and review prior indicated and, if available, unfounded investigations.

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- D) Observe and photograph the environment where the alleged harm occurred and create a timeline. In addition to observing the environment, conduct a scene investigation, per **Procedures 300.60, Scene Investigation**.
- E) A medical examination must be completed if required for the allegation and/or if injuries are observed or the alleged child victim reports pain and/or injury. The Child Protection Specialist shall request that the treating physician or nurse photograph the injuries and complete a body diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- F) When a second medical opinion is needed, refer to **Procedures 300.100 Medical Requirements for Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect**.
- G) Obtain medical documentation that the injury/harm will have immediate and/or long-term health effects on the alleged child victim.
- H) Obtain the alleged child victim's medical records of his or her current treatment/diagnosis and relevant past treatment.
- I) Whether or not the alleged child victim's medical needs are related to the alleged incident, Child Protection Specialists must take the following actions when it is suspected that the alleged child victim is in need of medical care.
  - i) Request that the parents seek immediate medical attention for their child who is the alleged child victim. Contact the alleged child victim's physician within 24 hours after seeing the alleged child victim to confirm that the alleged child victim has received medical care. The Child Protection Specialist should accompany the alleged child victim to the medical provider, if possible. If the Child Protection Specialist is not able to accompany the alleged child victim to the medical provider, he/she must contact the medical provider or facility to alert them that the alleged child victim is coming and why the alleged child victim is being seen by the medical provider.
  - ii) If the parent refuses or does not obtain medical assistance for the child, the Child Protection Specialist must **immediately** consult with his or her supervisor or Area Administrator to determine if the alleged child victim should be taken into temporary protective custody to provide medical care. (See **Procedures 300.100(c)(2)(B)**)
  - iii) Call law enforcement for assistance, if necessary.

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- J) When the police have investigated the injury/harm to the alleged child victim, the completed investigation by the police should be obtained and documented. If the police report is not available, use a contact note to document that the report has been requested and to include any verbal statements given by the police. Child Protection Specialists must also inquire about and document efforts to obtain other law enforcement reports on the subjects under investigation.

**Note:** Every effort should be made to coordinate investigative activities with local law enforcement.

- K) The Child Protection Supervisor must review all police reports to ensure the reported findings do not conflict with previously documented information received verbally.

- L) For all investigations where law enforcement is involved, a conference with Child Protection staff, DCFS Legal (if appropriate), the State's Attorney and law enforcement shall be convened to discuss the recommended finding. The Child Protection Specialist shall document the discussion of this conference in a contact note.

- M) When there has been a prior indicated finding for serious abuse or a prior arrest or conviction of child endangerment or battery to a child, or domestic battery and the parent/caregiver continues to permit the alleged perpetrator/abuser to have access to the alleged child victim, the Child Protection Specialist must attempt to secure the full investigative file from law enforcement prior to closing the investigation.

- N) If multiple possible perpetrators are identified, document the evidence that pertains to each possible perpetrator.

- O) Complete the Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse screens on all eligible subjects. The Paramour Checklist is to be completed if the case is identified as a Paramour case.

**Note:** In cases where an arrest has been made for domestic violence, the Child Protection Specialist **must** contact pretrial services to determine bail conditions.

- P) If there is an open intact or placement service case and/or there are concurrent investigations, the Child Protection Specialist shall convene a conference for the purpose of reviewing the pending investigation with all professionals involved, including but not limited to, DCFS legal, law enforcement, the State's Attorney office, medical professionals, and

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DCFS/POS staff. The conference should include, but not be limited to, a discussion to ensure the ongoing safety of the alleged child victim(s) without jeopardizing the criminal investigation prior to closure of the investigation. The Child Protection Specialist shall document the discussion of this conference in a contact note.

Q) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

### 3) Required Documentation

A) All documented medical diagnoses that are related to the injury/harm. Any medical records concerning the alleged child victim's current treatment/diagnosis and relevant past treatment must be obtained.

B) If police involvement, police investigation case findings and reports generated by the police, as well as law enforcement photographs of the alleged child victim's injuries and scene or other relevant evidence. If the police report is not available, use a contact note to document that the report has been requested and to include any verbal statements given by the police. The Child Protection Specialist must also inquire about and document efforts to obtain other law enforcement reports on the subjects under investigation. The Child Protection Specialist must make every effort to obtain the police report prior to closing the investigation.

C) Evidence that identifies the most likely perpetrator. If multiple, possible perpetrators are identified, document evidence that pertains to each possible perpetrator.

D) Documentation that all the LEADS reports were reviewed to determine the impact on safety and the final finding.

E) Documentation that all other required contacts have been made. If a contact has not been made, there are documented reasons for the situation.

F) Documentation of detailed, descriptive explanatory statements of the incident provided by the alleged perpetrator, victim, witnesses, and any other persons with knowledge of the injury/harm.

G) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.



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- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding
  - A) Documentation of a detailed analysis of all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence has been gathered, reviewed and considered and any conflicting evidence has been resolved to the extent possible.
  - B) The Child Protection Specialist and Child Protection Supervisor shall have a formal supervisory conference to assess all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence obtained during the course of the investigation to reach an investigative finding. Document the supervisory contact in a supervisory note.

### i) **Retention Schedule**

Identifying information contained in indicated reports is retained in the State Central Register for 5, 20 or 50 years, depending on the allegation. If there are multiple indicated allegations in a report, all of the allegations will be retained for the longest length of time assigned to an allegation in that report. See **Procedures 300, Subsection 300.150(c)** for the schedule of case retention for indicated allegations as well as the retention schedule of unfounded reports.

### j) **References**

Definitions of the allegations were taken in part from:

Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary. Edited by Clayton L. Thomas. M.D., M.P.H., Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company, 1981.

Interdisciplinary Glossary on Child Abuse and Neglect: Legal, Medical, Social Work Terms, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing office, 1978.

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Some of the allegations below contain suggested questions that the Child Protection Specialist should ask during the course of the investigation. The suggested questions are part of the information gathering for the investigation. The Child Protection Specialist is still required to gather and consider all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence prior to making a final finding.

### Allegation of Harm #1/51

#### DEATH

##### a) Definition

**Death:** the permanent cessation of all vital functions.

The following definitions of death are also commonly used:

- 1) Total irreversible cessation of cerebral function, spontaneous function of the respiratory system, and spontaneous function of the circulatory system; and
- 2) The final and irreversible cessation of perceptible heartbeat and respiration.

##### b) Taking a Report

- 1) The reporter/source has reason to believe that the child's death resulted from the following:
  - i) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
  - ii) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person that resulted in the child's death (ABUSE); or
  - iii) Blatant disregard of parental/caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child's death (NEGLECT). *"Blatant disregard" means an incident where the real, significant, and imminent risk of harm would be so obvious to a reasonable parent or caretaker that it is unlikely that a reasonable parent or caretaker would have exposed the child to the danger without exercising precautionary measures to protect the child from harm.* 325 ILCS 5/3.

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- 2) **When taking a report involving the death of a child, allegations #10 Substantial Risk of Physical Injury or #60 Environment Injurious are applicable only to surviving siblings or other children residing in the home and shall not be assigned to the deceased child.**

### c) **Investigating a Report**

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

- A) Conduct immediate individual and in-person interviews with surviving siblings and other children that lived or were temporarily staying in the environment in which the child died. Complete a safety assessment (**CERAP**) within 24 hours. Interviews should be conducted using the Forensic Interview protocol. Non-verbal children must be thoroughly observed and assessed.

If there are additional children in the home that were not listed on the report, they must be added to the report, assigned an allegation as necessary, and their safety and trauma/grief therapy needs must be assessed. The Child Protection Specialist shall evaluate the need for grief therapy for all family members.

**Note:** A child death, in and of itself, may not require removal of surviving children from the home.

**Note:** If other children in the home are considered to be at risk, they should be asked if he/she knows an extended family member, another adult or caretaker that he or she feels safe with or important or special to. Persons identified by the other children in the home shall be interviewed.

- B) Notify and interview the alleged child victim's primary medical provider as well as any other medical providers that have treated the alleged child victim within the past twelve (12) months. If multiple medical providers are identified, the Child Protection Specialist shall share all information provided with the Primary Care Physician.

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- C) Interview the coroner/medical examiner to obtain his/her preliminary finding of the cause and manner of the child's death. After obtaining the autopsy report, scene investigation, any relevant laboratory test results, and a coroner's inquest report if an inquest was conducted, a subsequent interview of the coroner/medical examiner should be conducted, if necessary, to understand the findings.
- D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

### 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

**In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation.**

- A) Determine if a scene investigation has been completed. The coroner/medical examiner has primary responsibility to conduct the scene investigation. When the coroner/medical examiner and law enforcement have not already done so, conduct a scene investigation per **Procedures 300.60, Scene Investigation**.
- B) Medical examinations of all other children residing full or part-time in the home where the alleged child victim died are required. These medical exams may not be waived. See **Procedures 300.100, Medical Requirements for Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect**, for further instruction.
- C) Obtain reports completed by the attending physician, coroner/medical examiner regarding the cause and manner of the child's death including autopsy report, scene investigation, any relevant laboratory test results, and coroner's inquest report, if an inquest was conducted. Include medical records of surviving children, if potentially relevant to the final determination.
- D) Child Protection Specialists, in consultation with the Child Protection Supervisor, must complete a safety assessment of all other children living or temporarily staying in the environment where the child died. The Specialist shall take appropriate action based on the finding of the safety assessment in accordance with **Procedures 300, Appendix G (CERAP)**.

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- E) During a death investigation, when an infant should be wearing an apnea monitor, the Child Protection Specialist shall request that the doctor who ordered the apnea monitor request from the apnea monitor company the records for that monitor's use during the relevant time periods.
  - F) The Child Protection Supervisor must review the autopsy report prior to the final finding to ensure that the autopsy findings do not conflict with previously documented information received verbally.
  - G) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Required Documentation
- A) Autopsy report, scene investigation, any relevant laboratory test results, and coroner's inquest report (if an inquest was conducted). If these are unavailable, the Child Protection Specialist must attempt to obtain the death certificate or medical report of the child's death.
  - B) Medical reports concerning any medical procedure the child received just prior to his or her death and any relevant medical reports concerning past treatment the child received.
  - C) If available, law enforcement or coroner photographs of the child's fatal injuries.
  - D) Police investigation case findings and reports generated by the police. If the police report is not available, use a contact note to document that the report has been requested and to include any verbal statements given by the police. The Child Protection Specialist must also inquire about and document efforts to obtain other law enforcement reports on the subjects under investigation. The Child Protection Specialist must make every effort to obtain the police report prior to closing the investigation.
  - E) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #1**), documentation has been obtained that verifies that the child's death is a result of a direct action of the alleged perpetrator, or the alleged perpetrator has admitted to killing or harming the child. The Child Protection Specialist and Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with medical opinion.

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- F) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #51**), documentation has been obtained that verifies the child's death is the result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - G) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding
- A) Factors include:
    - i) Did the child's death result from:
      - a) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare? or
      - b) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person that resulted in the child's death?
    - ii) Did the parent or caregiver exhibit 'blatant disregard'?
  - B) A current report involving the same subjects of an unfounded report shall not be indicated solely on the basis of the prior unfounded report. If new details provide information that could impact a previously unfounded investigation, the information must be reported to the SCR to determine if a new investigation of the unfounded allegation is warranted.
  - C) When making a final finding determination for **Allegation #1/#51 Death, Allegations #10 Substantial Risk of Physical Injury, or #60 Environment Injurious** may be applicable to surviving siblings or other children residing in the home but shall not be assigned to the deceased child.
  - D) Coroners/Medical Examiners are limited to **5 manners** of death:
    - i) Homicide;
    - ii) Suicide;
    - iii) Natural;
    - iv) Undetermined, and
    - v) Accidental

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**The “manner” of death does not rule out the possibility of abuse and/or neglect. The Child Protection Specialist and Supervisor need to assess all of the evidence to make that determination.**

**Example:** An accidental manner of death does not rule out the possible existence of child abuse or neglect (e.g., an intoxicated mother accidentally hits her child with her vehicle. The manner of death is ruled “accident”; however, the mother was neglectful in driving while intoxicated).

**Example:** A manner of death of undetermined occurs in cases in which there is insufficient information to classify the death as a homicide, accident, natural or suicide. A manner of death of undetermined does not rule out the possible existence of child abuse or neglect (e.g., a child has the presence of non-accidental bruises at the time of death).



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**Allegation of Harm #2/52**  
**HEAD INJURIES**

**a) Definitions**

**1) Head Injuries**

Serious injuries causing skull fracture, brain damage or bleeding on the brain such as a subdural hematoma or **Abusive Head Trauma** (Shaken Baby Syndrome).

**2) Brain Damage – Option A**

Direct damage to the brain from blunt or penetrating force or secondary to lack of oxygen (suffocation).

**3) Skull Fracture – Option B**

A break of the bone surrounding the brain. The fracture pattern possibilities include linear or comminuted (more than one fracture). A fracture may be described as depressed which means the bone fragment is displaced.

**4) Hematoma – Option C**

A) Collections of blood outside blood vessels which are injured.

B) Depending on the location of the bleeding, the following types of hematomas result:

i) Subgaleal hematomas are located outside the skull. They can be seen as a bump or swelling to the scalp.

ii) Epidural hematomas occur right under the skull bone; they are intracranial or inside the skull. They can occur from impact to the temporal or side of the head. Blood vessels running under the fracture are severed and blood accumulates under the fracture above the dura mater.

iii) Subdural hematomas are collections of blood beneath the dura mater (the tough outer membrane covering the spinal cord and brain).

iv) Subarachnoid hematomas are blood collections below another layer of tissue surrounding the brain called the subarachnoid layer.

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- 5) **Abusive Head Trauma - Option D**  
(Shaken Baby Syndrome or Shaken Impact Syndrome)
- A) An injury to the head, especially to the scalp and cranium that may be limited to soft tissue damage or may include the cranial bones, eye sockets, and the brain, including any of the types of hematomas.
  - B) “Violent whiplash-type shaking injury inflicted by an abuser.” Shaking of an infant may cause coma, convulsions and increased intracranial pressure, resulting in stretching and tearing of the cerebral veins with consequent bleeding into the subdural space. These injuries may occur with or without obvious evidence of impact to the cranium; however retinal hemorrhages and bruises on the arms or trunk are sometimes present.

**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the head injury resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent’s paramour or other person responsible for the child’s welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent’s paramour, or other person responsible for the child’s welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in the child sustaining a head injury (ABUSE); or
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental/caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child sustaining a head injury (NEGLECT).

**c) Investigating a Report**

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

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- 2) Required Activities
  - A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**
  - B) **In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation.**
  - C) A medical examination of the alleged child victim is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the alleged child victim is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. This allegation cannot be unfounded without a medical examination and consultation. The Child Protection Specialist shall request that the treating physician or nurse photograph the injuries and complete a body diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
  
- 3) Required Documentation
  - A) Documented medical diagnosis that the head injury exists and an exact description of the injury. Medical records concerning the child's current treatment/diagnosis and relevant past treatment must be obtained.
  - B) Verification of head injuries and the presence or absence of any predisposing medical condition that may have caused or contributed to the injuries must come from a physician.
  - C) Medical reports concerning any medical procedure the child received just prior to injury and any relevant medical reports concerning past treatment the child received, if any.
  - D) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #2**), documentation has been obtained that verifies that the child sustained a head injury as a result of a direct action of the perpetrator, or the perpetrator has admitted to injuring the child.
  - E) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #52**), documentation has been obtained that verifies the child sustained a head injury as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - F) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

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- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

**There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.**

- 5) **Head Injury Allegation Specific Questions**

**The suggested/specific questions are part of the information gathering for the investigation. The Child Protection Specialist is still required to gather and consider all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence prior to making a final finding. See Procedure 300.50 Gathering Evidence and Assessing Credibility of Evidence.**

- A) Symptoms

- i) What was the first thing that you noticed about the child that was different than usual? Please tell me more about that.
  - a) Why did it seem different to you?
  - b) What did you do?
  - c) Did anything make the child's symptoms better or worse?
- ii) What was the child doing immediately prior to your noticing the first concerning symptom?
- iii) Did you notice any of the following in the child in the prior two weeks?
  - a) Change in color? (pale or blue)
  - b) Change in breathing?
  - c) Change in energy or activity level?
  - d) Vomiting? (more than once or twice)
  - e) Concern for possible seizures? (eyes rolling or twitching of limbs)
  - f) Did the child seem like they were in any pain or extremely irritable? If so, describe why you thought so.

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- g) Did you notice or know of any bruising on the child's body?
  - 1) If so, describe where on the body.
  - 2) When did it happen?
  - 3) Describe detailed circumstances for how it occurred, if known.
  - 4) What did it look like when it first occurred?
  - 5) Any pattern shape to the bruise? If so, please draw or describe.
  - 6) Any photos of the bruising? If so, please attain them.

### B) Trauma

- i) Did the child have ANY, falls, drops, bonks, hits, shakes, or other unusual occurrences in the past two weeks? If yes, please give detailed specifics of EACH prior event including:
  - a) The child's activity before and after the trauma.
  - b) Who witnessed the trauma, if anyone.
  - c) Any medical symptoms for the child immediately after the trauma and in the days thereafter.
  - d) What the caregiver did in response to the child's medical symptoms or trauma.
- ii) Please see examples below for two common trauma-type events:
  - a) Fall
    - 1) Did you witness the actual fall and impact?
    - 2) How did the child fall? Describe specifics.
    - 3) How far was the fall? Less than 1 foot? 1-2 feet? 2-3 feet? More than 3 feet?

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- 4) What part of the child's body impacted the surface first?
  - 5) What type of surface did the child fall on? (wood, carpet, tile, concrete, or other surface)
  - 6) Was the fall witnessed by anyone? If so, who?
  - 7) What was the position of the child when found?
  - 8) Were there multiple impacts during the fall? (E.g., staircase)
- b) Impact of another object: child hit something or was hit with something.
- 1) What object did the child hit or get hit by? Do you still have it? If so, take multiple photographs of the object.
  - 2) Was the impact witnessed by anyone? If so, who?
  - 3) How did the child hit the object or get hit by the object? Describe specifics.
  - 4) What was the child's position at the time of impact? If being carried by a caregiver, how was the child positioned on the caregiver?
  - 5) Where on the child's body was the impact?
- C) Reenactment: Can you reenact the incident?
- D) Caregiver Explanations

If not a specific trauma type described above, any explanation or thought by the caregiver for how the head injury occurred?

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**Allegation of Harm #4/54**  
**INTERNAL INJURIES**

**a) Definition**

**Internal Injury**

An injury that is not visible from the outside (e.g. an injury to the organs occupying the thoracic or abdominal cavities). Such injury may result from a direct blow or a penetrating injury. Internal injuries include injuries to the lungs, heart, spleen, kidneys, adrenal glands, liver, stomach, pancreas, intestines, or bladder.

A person with internal injuries will look ill, may vomit, be unable to take in fluids, and will progressively become worse. Signs of injury include vomiting, decreased alertness, and internal bleeding.

**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the internal injuries resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in internal injuries (ABUSE); or
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental/caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child sustaining internal injuries (NEGLECT).

**c) Investigating a Report**

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

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### 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

**In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation.**

- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. The Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

### 3) Required Documentation

- A) Documented medical diagnosis that an internal injury exists and there is an exact description of the injury and all other relevant medical records.
- B) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #4**), obtain documentation that verifies that the child sustained an internal injury as a result of a direct action of the perpetrator, or the perpetrator has admitted to harming the child. The Child Protection Specialist and Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with medical opinion.
- C) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #54**), obtain documentation that verifies the child sustained an internal injury as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
- D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.



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- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

**There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.**

- 5) **Internal Injury Allegation Specific Questions**

**The suggested/specific questions are part of the information gathering for the investigation. The Child Protection Specialist is still required to gather and consider all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence prior to making a final finding. See Procedure 300.50 Gathering Evidence and Assessing Credibility of Evidence**

- A) Reason: What made you seek medical care?
- B) Timeline
- i) When did you last see the child act in their usual manner including eating and drinking, peeing and pooping, breathing and body movement?
  - ii) What was the child doing immediately prior to you noticing the first concerning symptom that made you seek care?
  - iii) Take me through the two to three days prior, in detailed timeline, leading up to the moment you brought the child in.
  - iv) Did the child seem like they were in any pain or extremely irritable in the past two weeks? If so, describe why you thought so.
    - a) Where was the pain? Can you point to or identify where they said they had pain?
    - b) Any pain with changing clothes?
    - c) Any pain with changing diapers?
    - d) Any pain with getting in and out of car seats?
    - e) Any decreased movement of the child's arms or legs?
  - v) Any vomiting or diarrhea in the week prior to presentation for medical care? Did you ever see blood? Was there a fever?

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- vi) Please describe the child's ability to eat and drink in the past week.
- vii) Have you observed any bruising on the child's body in the past two weeks?
  - a) If so, describe where and detailed circumstances, if known, for how it occurred.
  - b) Any pattern to the bruising? Attain any photographs of the bruising.
- viii) Did you notice anything different on the child's body? Areas of color, swelling, warmth? If so, when?
- ix) Any trauma (E.g., falls, drops, bonks, hits or shakes) in the past two weeks? If yes, can you give me a detailed account of what happened? Include the child's symptoms and activity immediately before and after the event.

### C) Trauma

- i) Fall
  - a) Did you witness the actual fall and impact?
  - b) How did the child fall? Describe specifics.
  - c) How far was the fall? Less than 1 foot? 1-2 feet? 2-3 feet? More than 3 feet?
  - d) What part of the child's body impacted the surface first?
  - e) What type of surface did the child fall on? (wood, carpet, tile, concrete, or other surface)
  - f) Was the fall witnessed by anyone? If so, who?
  - g) What was the position of the child when found?
  - h) Were there multiple impacts during the fall? (E.g., staircase)

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- ii) Impact of another object: child hit something or was hit with something.
  - a) What object did the child hit or get hit by? Do you still have it? If so, take multiple photographs of the object.
  - b) Was the impact witnessed by anyone? If so, who?
  - c) How did the child hit the object or get hit by the object? Describe specifics.
  - d) What was the child's position at the time of impact? If being carried by a caregiver, how was the child positioned on the caregiver?
  - e) Where on the child's body was the impact?
- D) Reenactment: Can you reenact the incident?
- E) Caregiver Explanations

If no history of trauma can be identified to explain the internal injury, any explanation or thought by the caregiver for how the injury occurred?

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**Allegation of Harm #5/55**  
**BURNS**

**a) Definition**

**Burns**

Tissue injuries resulting from excessive exposure to thermal (heat or cold), chemical, electrical or radioactive agents. The effects vary according to the type, duration and intensity of the agent and the part of the body involved. Burns are usually classified as first, second, third or fourth degree.

**1) First Degree (Superficial Partial Thickness)**

Superficial burns in which damage is limited to the outer layer of the epidermis (skin) characterized by scorching or painful redness of the skin. (E.g., sunburn)

**2) Second Degree (Full Partial Thickness)**

Burns in which the damage extends through the outer layer of the skin into the inner layers (dermis). Blistering will be present within 24 hours.

**3) Third Degree (Full Thickness)**

Burns in which both layers of skin (epidermis and dermis) are destroyed with damage extending into underlying tissues. Tissue may be charred or coagulated.

**4) Fourth Degree (Full Thickness)**

Burns that extend beyond skin and underlying tissues into bone, joints and muscles.

**5) Scalding**

Scalding is a burn to the skin or flesh caused by moist heat and hot vapors, such as steam.

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**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the burn or scalding resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in the burn or scalding (ABUSE); or
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental or caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child sustaining a burn or scalding (NEGLECT).

**c) Investigating a Report**

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

- 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) A medical examination of the child's injury is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. The Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

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- 3) Required Documentation
  - A) Documented medical diagnosis that the child was burned and all relevant medical reports.
  - B) To make a finding of abuse, **Allegation #5**, obtain documentation that verifies the child's injuries are inconsistent with the explanation given and the most likely way they occurred was by abuse. The Child Protection Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with medical opinion.
  - C) To make a finding of neglect, **Allegation #55**, obtain documentation that verifies the child was burned as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

**There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.**

- 5) **Burn Allegation Specific Questions**

**The suggested/specific questions are part of the information gathering for the investigation. The Child Protection Specialist is still required to gather and consider all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence prior to making a final finding. See Procedure 300.50, Gathering Evidence and Assessing Credibility of Evidence**

- A) Timeline
  - i) Tell me the detailed events leading up to the burn. What was the child doing before the burn? How did the burn occur? Where was the child when the burn occurred? Where was the caregiver?
  - ii) Was the event witnessed? Is so, by whom?
  - iii) **Take multiple photographs of the burn on the child from all angles on the body. Take photographs of unaffected areas of the body as well. Only areas of the alleged child victim's body not**

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**covered by clothes may be photographed. If the burns are in an area covered by clothing, then the Child Protection Specialist shall obtain the written consent of the child's parent or legal guardian to take photographs.**

- B) If injury occurred secondary to a hot liquid:
- i) Was the child wearing any clothing? If so, what? Take pictures of clothing.
  - ii) How did the child react? What happened right after the burn?
  - iii) What did you do when you noticed the burn?
  - iv) What did the burn look like immediately after it happened? Do you have any photographs of that?
  - v) Did the burn blister or change in appearance? If so, how? When did that occur? What, if anything, did you do with regards to the blistering skin?
  - vi) What did you do to treat the burn? Obtain name of product, ingredients and picture, if applicable.
  - vii) Did you seek advice from anyone regarding the burn?
  - viii) Did the child seem like they were in any pain or extremely irritable after the burn?
  - ix) If the burn injury occurred in a tub, shower or sink area, obtain the following information:
    - a) Temperature measurement of the water upon opening faucet;
    - b) Time it takes for water to get to hottest possible;
    - c) Hottest temperature that can be achieved by only opening hot water;
    - d) Does water temperature change with the use of other water sources (flushing toilet, etc.);
    - e) Pictures of the scene, including faucet, handle and spigot.



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- C) If injury occurred secondary to a hot object or chemical:
- i) Was the child wearing any clothing? If so, what? Take pictures of clothing.
  - ii) How did the child react? What happened right after the burn?
  - iii) What did you do when you noticed the burn?
  - iv) What did you do when you noticed the burn?
  - v) What did the burn look like immediately after it happened? Do you have any photographs of that?
  - vi) Did the burn blister or change in appearance? If so, how? When did that occur? What, if anything, did you do with regards to the blistering skin?
  - vii) What did you do to treat the burn? (Name of product/ingredients and picture if applicable)
  - viii) Did you seek advice from anyone regarding the burn?
  - ix) Did the child seem like they were in any pain or extremely irritable after the burn?
  - x) How did the object or chemical come in contact with the child?
  - xi) Do you have the object or chemical that caused the burn? If so, take multiple pictures of the object or chemical with a measurement device in the photo.
- D) Has the child ever suffered a burn before? If so, provide the specifics as to that event, including but not limited to:
- i) How and when it occurred,
  - ii) Whether or not it was witnessed,
  - iii) Where on the child's body it occurred, and
  - iv) How it was treated.

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- E) Has the child suffered any other bruises or injuries in the past two weeks?  
If so, describe the specific details of:
- i) What those injuries were,
  - ii) Whose care they occurred in,
  - iii) How they appeared initially (gather photographs if any),
  - iv) What treatment was given,
  - v) Whether medical care was sought, and
  - vi) How the child acted (activity level, eating, drinking, peeing, pooping, breathing, and color) immediately before and after those events.
- F) Reenactment: Can you reenact the incident?
- G) Caregiver Explanations

Any explanation or thought by the caregiver for how the burn occurred?

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**Allegation of Harm #6/56**  
**POISON/NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES**

**a) Definitions**

**1) Poison**

Any substance, other than mood altering chemicals or alcohol, taken into the body by ingestion, inhalation, injection, or absorption that interferes with normal physiological functions. Virtually any substance can be poisonous if consumed in sufficient quantity; therefore, the term poison more often implies an excessive amount rather than the existence of a specific substance.

**2) Noxious Substance**

A substance deemed to be harmful (injurious); not wholesome.

**Note:** Ingestion of mood altering chemicals or alcohol should be coded as allegation of harm #15/65, **Substance Misuse**.

**Note:** In cases of suspected Medical Child Abuse, refer to **Procedures 300, Appendix L**.

**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that a child was poisoned or ingested a noxious substance as the result of one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other persons residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in the child consuming poison or a noxious substance (ABUSE); or
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental/caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child consuming poison or a noxious substance (NEGLECT).

**c) Investigating a Report**

**1) Required Contacts**

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

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2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. The Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

3) Required Documentation

- A) Documented medical diagnosis that the child was poisoned or was exposed to a noxious substance and all relevant medical records.
- B) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #6**), obtain documentation that verifies that the child's consumption of or exposure to a poison or noxious substance was a result of a direct action of the perpetrator, or the perpetrator has admitted to poisoning the child. The Child Protection Specialist and Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with medical opinion.
- C) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #56**), obtain documentation that verifies the child ingested or was exposed to a poison or noxious substance as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
- D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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### Allegation of Harm #7/57

#### WOUNDS

a) **Definition**

Gunshot or stabbing injuries.

b) **Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the wound resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in a wound (ABUSE); or
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental/caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child sustaining a wound (NEGLECT).

c) **Investigating a Report**

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

- 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. The Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.

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- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Required Documentation
- A) Documented medical diagnosis that the child was wounded and all relevant medical records.
  - B) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #7**), obtain documentation that verifies that the child was wounded as a result of a direct action of the perpetrator, or the perpetrator has admitted to wounding the child. The Child Protection Specialist and Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with medical opinion.
  - C) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #57**), obtain documentation that verifies the child was wounded as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors to Determine a Final Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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**Allegation of Harm #9/59**  
**BONE FRACTURES**

**a) Definitions**

**Fracture**

A break in a bone or a cartilage injury, such as a broken nose.

There are different types of fractures which result from different forces applied to the bone that are great enough to lead to failure of the bone, resulting in fractures.

**1) Transverse**

A fracture that results in a break through the bone; both sides of the bone are broken.

**2) Greenstick**

A bending fracture unique in children and in which one side of the bone is fractured.

**3) Oblique and Spiral**

Fractures where twisting is involved. Oblique means the fracture runs on an angle to the long bone. A spiral fracture implies that the twisting fracture is in the distribution like the lines of a barbershop stripe. On X-ray, oblique and spiral fractures look the same.

**4) Torus (Buckle)**

A compression fracture where the bone is compressed along the axis of the bone.

**5) Salter Harris**

Injury to the growth plate. These fractures are seen more often in older children.

**6) Displaced**

When the bone parts are not in normal alignment.

**7) Comminuted**

A fracture that has fragments.

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### b) Taking a Report

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the bone fracture resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in a bone fracture (ABUSE); or
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental/caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child sustaining a bone fracture (NEGLECT).

### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

- 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. The Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.



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- 3) Required Documentation
  - A) Documented medical diagnosis that the child sustained a broken bone and all relevant medical records.
  - B) To make a finding of abuse, (**Allegation #9**), obtain documentation that verifies the child's fracture is inconsistent with the explanation given and the most likely manner in which it occurred was by abuse; or the perpetrator has admitted causing the injury. The Child Protection Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with medical opinion.
  - C) To make a finding of neglect, (**Allegation #59**), documentation has been obtained that verifies the child received a bone fracture as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

**There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.**

- 5) **Fracture Allegation Specific Questions**

**The suggested/specific questions are part of the information gathering for the investigation. The Child Protection Specialist is still required to gather and consider all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence prior to making a final finding. See Procedure 300.50, Gathering Evidence and Assessing Credibility of Evidence**

- A) Symptoms
  - i) What was the first thing that you noticed about the child that was different than usual? Please tell me more about that.
    - a) Why did it seem different to you?
    - b) What did you do?
    - c) Did anything make the child's symptoms better or worse?

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- ii) Did the child seem like they were in any pain or extremely irritable in the past two weeks? If so, describe why you thought so.
  - a) Was there pain with movement of a particular body part?
  - b) Any pain with changing clothes?
  - c) Any pain with changing diapers?
  - d) Any pain with getting in and out of car seats?
  - e) Any decreased movement of a particular body part?
  - f) Any bruising to the body in the past two weeks?
    - 1) If so, where on the body?
    - 2) When and how did it happen? Describe detailed circumstances.
    - 3) What did it look like when it first occurred?
    - 4) Any pattern shape to the bruise? If so, draw or describe.
    - 5) Any photographs of the bruising? If so, attain them.
  - g) Any swelling of a particular body part? If so, when?

### B) Trauma

- i) Did the child have ANY falls, drops, bonks, hits, shakes, or other unusual occurrences in the past two weeks? If yes, please give detailed specifics of EACH prior event including:
  - a) The child's activity before and after the trauma,
  - b) Who witnessed the trauma, if anyone,
  - c) Any medical symptoms for the child immediately after the trauma and in the days thereafter, and
  - d) What the caregiver did in response to the child's medical symptoms or trauma.

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ii) Please see examples below for two common trauma-type events:

a) Fall

- 1) Did you witness the actual fall and impact?
- 2) How did the child fall? Describe specifics.
- 3) How far was the fall? Less than 1 foot? 1-2 feet? 2-3 feet? More than 3 feet?
- 4) What part of the child's body impacted the surface first?
- 5) What type of surface did the child fall on? (wood, carpet, tile, concrete, or other surface)
- 6) Was the fall witnessed by anyone? If so, who?
- 7) What was the position of the child when found?
- 8) Were there multiple impacts during the fall? (E.g., staircase)

b) Impact of another object: child hit something or was hit with something.

- 1) What object did the child hit or get hit by? Do you still have it? If so, take multiple photographs of the object.
- 2) Was the impact witnessed by anyone? If so, who?
- 3) How did the child hit the object or get hit by the object? Describe specifics.
- 4) What was the child's position at the time of impact? If being carried by a caregiver, how was the child positioned on the caregiver?
- 5) Where on the child's body was the impact?

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- C) Reenactment: Can you reenact the incident?
- D) Caregiver Explanations

If not a specific trauma type described above, any explanation/thought by the caregiver for how the fracture occurred?

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**Allegation of Harm #10**  
**SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF PHYSICAL INJURY**

**a) Definition**

**1) Substantial risk of physical injury** means that the parent, caregiver immediate family member aged 16 or over, other person residing in the home aged 16 or over, or the parent's paramour has created a **real and significant danger** of physical injury. This allegation of harm is to be used when the type or extent of harm is undefined but the total circumstances lead a reasonable person to believe that the child is in substantial risk of physical injury.

**2) Option A – Incidents of Violence or Intimidation**

This option includes incidents of violence or intimidation directed toward a child which is not known to have resulted in injury or impairment, but which clearly threaten such injury or impairment. Examples of violence or intimidation include, but are not limited to:

- A) Strangling a child;
- B) Smothering a child;
- C) Pulling a child's hair out;
- D) Violently pushing or shoving the child;
- E) Throwing or shaking a small child;
- F) Other violent or intimidating act directed toward the child to cause pain or fear.
- G) Subjecting the child to participation in or witnessing the physical abuse or restraint of another person when it is used by the perpetrator to intimidate the child (e.g., this could happen to you, this will happen to you); or
- H) Other violent or intimidating acts directed toward the child or in close proximity of the child that cause excessive pain or fear.

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### 3) **Option B – Medical Child Abuse**

#### **Factitious Disorder by Proxy or Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome**

- A) Medical Child Abuse is a form of child harm that is characterized by a parent/caregiver who intentionally and persistently lies, fakes, and/or produces illness in the child and repeatedly presents the child for medical assessment/treatment.
- B) If during the course of the investigation, a specific allegation of harm is identified, the appropriate allegation shall be added and a determination made on all the allegations. If the living circumstances of the family lead the Child Protection Specialist to consider temporary protective custody, **Allegation #76 (Inadequate Food)**, **#77 (Inadequate Shelter)**, **#78 (Inadequate Clothing)** or **#82 (Environmental Neglect)** must be added and a determination made as to whether services to meet these basic needs will alleviate the need for temporary protective custody.
- C) Examples of incidents or circumstances that in and of themselves do not constitute “risk of harm”:
  - i) Use of physical corporal punishment in and of itself does not constitute an allegation of substantial risk.
  - ii) Birth of a baby to families involved with the Department does not in and of itself constitute a substantial risk of harm or the presence of a real and significant danger.

### b) **Taking a Report**

The reporter/source must have reason to believe that the incident/circumstance that create a risk of harm resulted from the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent’s paramour, or other person responsible for the child’s welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent’s paramour, or other person responsible for the child’s welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in substantial risk of harm to the child (ABUSE); or

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- 3) One circumstance alone may present sufficient danger to justify taking the report. Examples of circumstances that can cause a substantial risk of physical injury include, but are not limited to:
- A) A perpetrator of child abuse who has been ordered by a court to remain out of the home returns home and has access to the children;
  - B) Anyone living in the home has a documented history of violence toward children or has been arrested for violence to a child;
  - C) Domestic violence in the home when the child or other family member has been threatened and the threat is believable, as evidenced by a past history of violence or uncontrolled behavior on the part of the perpetrator;
  - D) Allowing or encouraging a child to be involved in a criminal activity; or
  - E) The circumstances surrounding the death or serious injury of one child provide reason to believe that another child is at real and significant risk of harm.

### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

- A) Law enforcement shall be notified verbally and in writing (**CANTS 14**), as needed and in consultation with the supervisor. **If Medical Child Abuse is alleged, law enforcement must be notified within 24 hours and copies of all applicable police reports involving persons in the child's house must be obtained.**
- B) Notify the State's Attorney verbally and in writing, as needed and in consultation with the supervisor. **If Medical Child Abuse is alleged, the State's Attorney must be notified and provided with all available medical records, copies of investigative activities, and comparison investigative information.**
- C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

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### 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) If a child has special health care needs, as defined in **Procedures 302, Appendix O, Referral for Nursing Consultation Services**, the Child Protection Specialist must complete a DCFS nurse referral.
- B) If Medical Child Abuse is suspected, schedule and convene a meeting with Department nursing staff to discuss the case, notify law enforcement and schedule a multidisciplinary team meeting with the involved medical staff and law enforcement.
- C) Child Protection Supervisors are required to do the following for all cases where Medical Child Abuse is alleged:
  - i) Notify the Area Administrator of the pending investigation;
  - ii) Conduct in person weekly supervision sessions with the assigned Child Protection Specialist. Sessions should be conducted more frequently if necessary; and
  - iii) Supervisory sessions must address safety assessment and planning, multidisciplinary team meetings, coordination and comparison of investigative information, and other pertinent information.
- D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

### 3) Required Documentation

- A) Documentation and evidence that a child was subjected to substantial risk of injury and any relevant medical records.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.



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- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding
  - A) If Medical Child Abuse is alleged, ensure that appropriate evidence has been obtained to answer the following questions:
    - i) If the child's symptoms are suspected of being induced, how were they induced?
    - ii) If the child's symptoms were chemically induced, how long after the child was given the chemical would the symptoms appear? How long would the symptoms last?
    - iii) What was the circumstance or circumstances of the onset of the child's symptoms?
    - iv) Who was present with the child prior to the onset of the symptoms?
    - v) Is there evidence in the child's or siblings' medical records of false reporting of illnesses?
    - vi) Has the child been hospitalized on multiple occasions with uncommon presenting symptoms?
    - vii) Has blood found in the child's stool or urine matched the child's blood type?
    - viii) Has potassium, acetaminophen, aspirin, insulin, prescription medication, diuretics, controlled substances, illegal drugs, arsenic, other toxic substances or chemicals been found in the child's blood, urine or stool?
    - ix) Did the child's reported medical symptoms improve while the child was hospitalized, and then reoccur after the child was discharged from the hospital?
    - x) What are the ages of the involved children?
    - xi) Does the victim have a medical condition, behavioral, mental/emotional problem or disability that impacts his/her ability to seek help or significantly increases the caregiver's stress level?

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- xii) Is there a pattern of similar instances with this child or other children for whom the caregiver is responsible?
- xiii) What is the severity of the incident of Substantial Risk or Environment Injurious?
- xiv) What is the location or nature of potential harm?
- xv) Was an instrument or weapon used on the victim? The use of an instrument does not, in and of itself, constitute an indicated finding but must be considered with other factors.
- xvi) Is there a previous history of abuse or neglect? The history must be verifiable in SCR, through official record documentation, or substantial corroboration by other credible sources.
- xvii) What dynamics are present between the victim and the parent? Identify the child's level of fear of the caregiver. Does the caregiver appear to be concerned about the child's welfare and protection? Is there an appropriate parent/caregiver/child relationship?

### **B) Domestic Violence**

- i) There is a history of past incidents of domestic violence as confirmed through interviews with family members, collateral contacts, police and LEADS reports.
- ii) What is the nature of the domestic violence (E.g., yelling and screaming vs. physical contact or injury)?
- iii) Have weapons been used or brandished?
- iv) What is the involvement of the children during domestic violence incidents (E.g., present in the immediate vicinity, attempted to intervene, or out of immediate area)?
- v) Does the victim of domestic violence have the ability or wherewithal to use a support system?

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### C) Information Concerning Mental Health Issues

- i) What is the nature of the clinical diagnosis, if there is one?
- ii) Is the nature of the illness such that medication controls inappropriate or harmful behaviors? If so, what is the level of medication compliance?
- iii) Do the caregiver's hallucinations or delusions negatively affect the child and/or the caregiver's ability to provide child care?
- iv) Is there is a history of psychiatric hospitalizations?
- v) What is the history of the caregiver's treatment and treatment compliance history?
- vi) Complete an assessment of the caregiver's parenting ability based on past parenting history.

### D) Substance Abuse Issues

Identify substance use issues involving the parents or household members, and if they have involvement in the manufacture and distribution of illegal drugs.

When drug testing is requested and assistance is needed to identify a specific type of unusual or exotic drugs, (E.g., designer drugs or anabolic steroids) Clinical Specialty Services should be consulted for the appropriate screens. For additional information, staff should reference Section 140(e) of these Procedures.

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**Allegation of Harm 60**

**ENVIRONMENT INJURIOUS TO HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**a) Definition**

- 1) An **Environment Injurious to Health and Welfare** is when there are conditions that create a real, significant, and imminent likelihood of harm to a child’s health, physical wellbeing, or welfare **and** that the likelihood of harm is the result of the parent/caregiver’s blatant disregard of his/her responsibility to exercise reasonable precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate the imminent risk of moderate to severe harm.
- 2) *“Blatant disregard” means an incident where the real, significant and imminent risk of harm would be so obvious to a reasonable parent or caretaker that it is unlikely that a reasonable parent or caretaker would have exposed the child to the danger without exercising precautionary measures to protect the child from harm.*  
325 ILCS 5/3.
- 3) Examples of circumstances that may create a real, significant and imminent risk of moderate to severe harm include, but are not limited to:
  - A) Exposure to toxic vapors resulting from flammable or corrosive chemicals used in the manufacture of illicit drugs;
  - B) The circumstances surrounding the death of one child provides reason to believe that another child is at real, significant and imminent risk of harm;
  - C) Exposing a child to an environment that significantly affects the health and safety of the child, based on the sale or manufacture of illegal drugs;
  - D) A court has adjudicated a parent as unfit and the parent has not completed services that would correct the conditions or behavior leading to the court finding;
  - E) Being coerced or forced to participate in or witness the use of physical force or restraint of another person.

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### 4) **Environment Injurious**

- A) Environment injurious includes incidents where the circumstances **may** create a real, significant, and imminent risk of moderate to severe harm.
- B) Examples of circumstances of an environment injurious include, but are not limited to:
  - i) Domestic violence: An incident of past or current domestic violence when the domestic violence creates a real, significant, and imminent risk of moderate to severe harm to the child's health, physical well-being, or welfare, and the parent or caregiver has failed to exercise reasonable precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate the risk of harm to the child;
  - ii) A perpetrator of child abuse who has been court ordered to remain out of the home returns home and has access to the abused child;
  - iii) Anyone living in the home who has a documented history of violence directed toward children or has been arrested for violence directed to a child;
  - iv) Exposure to toxic vapors resulting from flammable and/or corrosive chemicals used in the manufacture of illicit drugs;
  - v) Surviving siblings of a child who dies as a result of unsafe sleep practices where there are other safety issues that place the surviving siblings at risk;
  - vi) Coercing or forcing the child to participate in or the witness the physical abuse or restraint of another person;
  - vii) The circumstances surrounding the death of a child provide reason to believe that a sibling or another child is in real, significant and imminent risk of moderate to severe harm;
  - viii) Exposing the child to an environment that significantly affects the health and safety of the child, based on the sale or manufacture of illegal drugs;

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- ix) A court has adjudicated a parent as unfit and the parent has not completed services that would correct the conditions or behavior leading to the court finding;
  - x) Allowing, encouraging or coercing a child to be involved in a criminal activity;
  - xi) Children in the home of a stillborn child whose still birth was the direct result of an action by the parent;
  - xii) Children in the home of a stillborn child who was delivered substance exposed;
  - xiii) Substance Abuse/Dependence: an incident or behavior caused by a parent or caregiver's substance use creates a real, significant, and imminent risk of moderate to severe harm to a child's health, physical well-being or welfare, **and** the parent or caregiver has failed to exercise reasonable precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate the risk of moderate to severe harm to the child;
  - xiv) Prior Harm to a Child: The prior harm to one child creates a real, significant, and imminent risk of moderate to severe harm to another child's health, physical wellbeing or welfare **and** the parent or caregiver has failed to exercise reasonable precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate the risk of moderate to severe harm to the other child; or
  - xv) Mental Health: An incident or behavior by the parent/caregiver that is symptomatic of mental illness creates a real, significant, and imminent risk of moderate to severe harm to the child's health, physical well-being or welfare, **and** the parent or caregiver has failed to exercise reasonable precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate the likelihood of harm to the child.
- C) Example of a circumstance that in and of itself does not constitute "risk of harm": Failure to follow a service plan does not in and of itself constitute an allegation of environment injurious.

### b) Taking a Report

- 1) The reporter/source must have reason to believe that the incident/circumstance that created an environment injurious or substantial risk of injury resulted from a parent or caregiver placing a child or allowing a child to be in an environment that is injurious and that the likelihood of harm to the child is due to the parent or caregiver's blatant disregard for the health and welfare of the child (NEGLECT).

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2) Factors to be considered include:

Whether there is a real and significant danger sufficient to justify taking a report is determined by any of the following factors. All factors need **not** be present to justify taking the report. One factor alone may present sufficient danger to justify taking the report:

- A) The child's age;
- B) The child's medical condition, behavioral, mental or emotional problems, developmental disability, or physical handicap, particularly as it relates to his or her ability to protect him or herself;
- C) The severity of occurrences;
- D) The frequency of occurrences;
- E) The alleged perpetrator's physical, mental and/or emotional abilities, particularly as it relates to his or her ability to control his or her actions and behavior;
- F) The dynamics of the relationship between the household members and the child (e.g., is the child treated differently than other children in the home?);
- G) The previous history of indicated abuse or neglect;
- H) The current stresses/crisis in the home;
- I) The presence of other supportive persons in the home; or
- J) The precautionary measures exercised by a parent or caregiver to protect the child from harm.
- K) If the blatant disregard alleged in the death of a child involves bedsharing or an unsafe sleep environment, **Allegation #60** may be appropriate for surviving siblings or other children residing in the home, but only if those children are infants, are developmentally disabled, have special health care needs or are medically compromised.
- L) The narrative of a report of this allegation must document an environment injurious in order to justify taking the report, as well as any other factors that had a bearing on the decision to take the report.



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**c) Investigating a Report**

1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

A) If a child has special health care needs, as defined in **Procedures 302, Appendix O, Referral for Nursing Consultation Services**, the Child Protection Specialist must complete a DCFS nurse referral.

B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

3) Required Documentation

A) Documentation and evidence that a child was placed in an environment injurious and any relevant medical records.

B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

Factors to be considered include:

A) Child, Caregiver, and Incident Factors

i) What is the child's age?

ii) Does the victim have a medical condition, behavioral, mental/emotional problem or disability that impacts his/her ability to protect himself or herself or that significantly increases the caregiver's stress level?

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- iii) Is there a pattern of similar instances with this child or other children for whom the parent or caregiver is responsible?
  - iv) What is the severity of the incident of substantial risk or environment injurious?
  - v) What is the location or nature of potential harm?
  - vi) Was an object/instrument used on the victim?
  - vii) Is there a previous history of abuse or neglect or do persons interviewed report previous injuries to the child?
  - viii) What dynamics are present between the victim and the parent? Identify the child's level of fear of the caregiver. Does the caregiver appear to be concerned about the child's welfare and protection? Is there an appropriate parent/caregiver/child relationship?
- B) Domestic Violence. See Appendix J.
- i) Is there is a history of past incidents of domestic violence as confirmed through interviews with family with members, collateral contacts, police and LEADS reports?
  - ii) What is the nature of the domestic violence (e.g., yelling and screaming vs. physical contact or injury)?
  - iii) Have weapons been used or brandished?
  - iv) What is the involvement of the children during domestic violence incidents (e.g., present in the immediate vicinity, attempted to intervene, or out of immediate area?)
  - v) Does the victim of domestic violence have the ability or wherewithal to use a support system?
- C) Information Concerning Mental Health Issues
- i) What is the nature of the clinical diagnosis, if there is one?
  - ii) Is the nature of the illness such that medication controls inappropriate or harmful behaviors? If so, what is the level of medication compliance?
  - iii) Do the caregiver's hallucinations or delusions negatively affect the child and/or the caregiver's ability to provide child care?

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- iv) Is there is a history of psychiatric hospitalizations?
  - v) What is the history of the caregiver's treatment and treatment compliance history?
- D) Substance Abuse Issues
- i) Identify substance use issues involving the parents or household members, and if they have involvement in the manufacture and distribution of illegal drugs.
  - ii) When drug testing is requested and assistance is needed to identify a specific type of unusual or exotic drugs, (E.g., designer drugs or anabolic steroids) Clinical Specialty Services should be consulted for the appropriate screens. For additional information, staff should reference Procedures 300.140(e).

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**Allegation of Harm #11/61**

**CUTS, BRUISES, WELTS, ABRASIONS & ORAL INJURIES**

**a) Definition**

**1) Cut / Laceration**

An opening, incision or break in the skin made by some external agent.

**2) Bruise**

An injury which results in bleeding under the skin, and in which skin is discolored but not broken. A bruise can also be called ecchymosis, contusions, or petechiae.

**3) Welt**

An elevation on the skin produced by a lash, blow, or allergic stimulus. The skin is not broken and the mark is reversible.

**4) Abrasion**

A scraping away of the skin.

**5) Oral Injuries**

Injuries to the child's mouth, such as broken teeth or frenulum tears.

**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the cuts, bruises, welts, abrasions, or oral injuries resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in cuts, bruises, welts, and abrasions (ABUSE); or
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental/caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child sustaining cuts, bruises, welts, and abrasions (NEGLECT).

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4) Factors to be considered include:

Not every cut, bruise, welt, abrasion or oral injury constitutes an allegation of abuse or neglect. The following factors should be considered when determining whether an injury that resulted in cuts, bruises, welts, abrasions or oral injuries constitutes an allegation of abuse or neglect:

- A) The child's age, mobility and developmental stage; bruises on children younger than 6 months are highly suspicious;
- B) The child's medical condition, behavioral, mental, or emotional problems, developmental disability, or physical handicap, particularly as they relate to the child's potential for victimization;
- C) A pattern or chronicity of similar instances; however, a single incident can constitute an allegation of abuse or neglect;
- D) The severity/extent of the cuts, bruises, welts, abrasions or oral injuries (size, number, depth, extent of discoloration); some bruises may fade quickly, such as around a young child's mouth, but still be considered serious;
- E) The location of the cuts, bruises, welts, abrasions or oral injuries; accidental bruises are frequently seen over bony areas such as knees, shins, the forehead, and other exposed bony surfaces. Facial bruises or bruises located on padded areas such as the torso, buttocks, cheeks, genitalia, or on relatively protected areas like the ear lobes, neck or upper lip, or on soft areas such as the stomach are highly suspicious;
- F) The pattern of the injury;
- G) Was an object/instrument was used on the child;
- H) Previous history of indicated abuse or neglect; and
- I) History of previous injuries.

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### c) Investigating a Report

#### 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

- A) Law enforcement shall be notified verbally and in writing (**CANTS 14**) regarding all infants under 12 months with any type of bruising, for all children 24 months and younger with multiple bruises, or when there is an SOR on a child 3 years and younger with a previous finding of abuse.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

#### 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

#### 3) Required Documentation

- A) Documented medical diagnosis that the child sustained cuts, bruises, welts, abrasions or an oral injury and all relevant medical records.
- B) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #11**), documentation of a medical opinion has been obtained that verifies that the child sustained cuts, bruises, welts, abrasions or oral injuries as a result of a direct action of the perpetrator, or the perpetrator has admitted to harming the child. The Child Protection Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with medical opinion.

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- C) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #61**), a medical opinion has been obtained that verifies the child sustained cuts, bruises, sustained welts, abrasions or oral injuries as the result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
- D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

### 4) Bruise Allegation Specific Questions

**The suggested/specific questions are part of the information gathering for the investigation. The Child Protection Specialist is still required to gather and consider all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence prior to making a final finding. See Procedure 300.50, Gathering Evidence and Assessing Credibility of Evidence**

- A) Symptoms for EACH concerning cut, welt or bruise
  - i) How and when did you first notice the cut, welt or bruise?
  - ii) Do you know how the cut, welt or bruise occurred/was caused? If so, please describe in detail.
  - iii) If an object reportedly caused the cut, welt or bruise, get details of how the object did so and take photographs of the object.
  - iv) Was the incident witnessed? If so, by whom?
  - v) Where on the child's body is the cut, welt or bruise?
    - a) If head, go to Head Injury Allegation Specific Questions
    - b) If chest:
      - 1) Did the child have any cough?
      - 2) Any difficulty breathing? Did the child stop breathing?



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- 3) Any pain in the chest area around the time the cut, welt or bruise was noted? If so, please describe:
  - A) What was noted,
  - B) How long it lasted,
  - C) Whether it was concerning to the caregiver, and
  - D) What, if any treatment, was given.
- c) If abdomen, go to Internal Injury Allegation Specific Questions
- d) If groin/buttocks:
  - 1) Did the child have any pain with peeing or pooping?
  - 2) Any blood in urine or stool?
- e) If arms, legs, or back:
  - 1) If the child was in pain, was there pain with movement of a particular body part?
  - 2) Any pain with changing clothes?
  - 3) Any pain with changing diapers?
  - 4) Any pain with getting in and out of car seats?
  - 5) Any decreased movement of a particular body part?
  - 6) Any swelling of a particular body part?
- vi) What did the cut, welt or bruise look like when it was first noticed? Any photographs?
- vii) Did the cut, welt or bruise have a pattern when it was first noticed? If so, describe or draw that.

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- viii) Did the cut, welt or bruise change in appearance? How so?
- ix) How was the child acting before and after receiving the cut, welt or bruise? (E.g., fussy, irritable, vomiting, pain, decreased feeding, decreased mobility)
- x) Has the child had any cuts, welts or bruises on any other body part in the past two weeks?
  - a) If so, describe where on the child's body.
  - b) When did it happen?
  - c) Describe detailed circumstances of how it occurred.
  - d) What did it look like when it first occurred?
  - e) Any pattern shape to the bruise? Draw or describe.
  - f) Any photographs of the bruising?
- xi) Did you seek advice from anyone regarding the cut, welt or bruise?
- xii) Was the child wearing any clothing at the time of the injury? If so, what? What parts of the body were and were not covered? Take pictures of clothing.
- xiii) Any other falls, drops, bonks, hits, or shakes in the past two weeks? If yes, obtain specifics of that prior traumatic event, including the child's symptoms and activity immediately before and after the event.

**B) Take multiple photographs of the cut, welt, or bruise on the child from all angles on the body. Take photographs of unaffected areas on the body as well.**

**C) Reenactment**

Can you reenact the incident that led to the cut, welt, or bruise? Take detailed photographs of the child's position during the incident, including position of any objects near the child during the incident.

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### 5) Assessment Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

Factors to be considered include:

- A) What is the child's age, mobility and developmental stage? Is the child able to sit up, crawl or walk? The less mobile the child is, the less likely the child is to receive accidental bruising.
- B) Does the child have a medical condition; behavioral, mental or emotional problems; any disability or handicap that impacts the child's ability to protect him or herself or that significantly increases a caregiver's stress level?
- C) Is there a pattern of similar instances with the child or other children for whom the parent/caregiver has been responsible?

**Note:** One incident is sufficient to indicate a report of abuse or neglect.

- D) What is the severity and location (E.g., size, number, depth of cut and extent of discoloration of the bruising) of the injury to the child's head, face or body?
- E) Accidental bruising usually occurs over bony prominences such as the knees, shins, forehead or elbows. Injuries to the cheeks, ears, genital, thighs and buttocks are more likely to be indicative of abusive treatment. Bruises surrounding a child's mouth may be associated with attempts to force feed or to make a child stop crying. Falls usually produce bruising on a single plane of the body, while inflicted injuries generally occur over multiple planes.
- F) Was an object or instrument used on the child? The use of an instrument does not in and of itself constitute an indicated finding, but multiple injuries resulting from the use of an instrument is significant.
- G) Bruises with sharply defined borders are almost always inflicted. An electric cord produces a loop mark, belts produce strap marks and both generally wrap around multiple planes of the body. Boards and paddles may leave linear injuries while other instruments may leave distinctive, patterned injures.
- H) Is there a previous history of abuse and/or neglect, or do persons interviewed report previous injuries to the child?

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- I) More weight should be given to a documented history, and DCFS files used as a basis for identifying history should be reviewed prior to being considered a factor. History described by subjects or collaterals (E.g., child injuries, incidents of domestic violence) that is undocumented should be evaluated and factored into the overall assessment of safety.
- J) What dynamics are present between the child and the parent?
- K) Identify the child's level of fear of the caregiver. Does the caregiver appear to be concerned about child's welfare and protection? Is there an appropriate parent-child relationship? An apparent lack of fear of the parent/caregiver is only one factor to be considered and does not mean the child is not being abused or neglected.
- L) Was the injury inflicted through corporal punishment? Corporal punishment suggests non-accidental or intentional injury. An assessment of the intentional injury must be made to determine if the corporal punishment was **excessive**.
- M) Is the explanation of the injury consistent with the injury? Consistency may be determined either through an analysis of the injury by a medical professional, or through consistent explanations of the incident obtained from witnesses of the incident across settings (E.g., 0-3 service providers, day care providers, teachers, other school personnel).

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### Allegation of Harm #12/62 HUMAN BITES

#### a) Definition

A bruise, cut or indentation in the skin caused by seizing, piercing, or cutting the skin with human teeth.

#### b) Taking a Report

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the human bite resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in a human bite (ABUSE); or
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental/caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child sustaining a human bite (NEGLECT).

#### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

- 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

**In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation.**

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- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Required Documentation
- A) Documented medical diagnosis that the child sustained a human bite and all relevant medical records.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Administrator's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding
- There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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### Allegation of Harm #13/63 SPRAINS/DISLOCATIONS

#### a) Definition

##### 1) Sprain

A sprain is trauma to a joint that causes pain and disability depending upon the degree of injury to ligaments and/or surrounding muscle tissue. In a severe sprain, ligaments and/or muscle tissue may be completely torn.

The symptoms of a sprain are pain, rapid localized swelling of the affected area, heat, joint laxity and a reduced range of motion with limitation of function.

##### 2) Dislocation

A dislocation is the displacement of any part, specifically the temporary displacement of a bone from its normal position in a joint.

Types of dislocations include:

- A) **Complicated:** a dislocation associated with other major injuries.
- B) **Compound:** a dislocation in which the joint is exposed to the external air.
- C) **Closed:** a simple dislocation.
- D) **Complete:** a dislocation which completely separates the surfaces of a joint.

#### b) Taking a Report

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the sprain or dislocation resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in the child sustaining a sprain or dislocation (ABUSE); or
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental/caregiver responsibilities that resulted in the child sustaining a sprain or dislocation (NEGLECT).

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### c) Investigating a Report

#### 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

#### 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.

B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

#### 3) Required Documentation

A) Documented medical diagnosis that the child sustained a sprain or dislocation and all relevant medical records.

B) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #13**), obtain documentation that verifies that the child sustained a sprain or dislocation as a result of a direct action of the perpetrator or the alleged perpetrator has admitted to harming the child. The Child Protection Specialist and Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with medical opinion.

C) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #63**), obtain documentation that verifies the child sustained a sprain or dislocation as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.



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D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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**Allegation of Harm #14/64**  
**TYING/CLOSE CONFINEMENT**

**a) Definition**

**1) Tying**

Unreasonable restriction of a child's mobility, actions or physical functioning by tying the child to a fixed (or heavy) object, or tying limbs together.

**2) Confinement**

Forcing the child to remain in a closely confined area that restricts physical movement.

**3) Examples of tying and close confinement include, but are not limited to:**

- A) Locking a child in a closet or small room;
- B) Tying one or more limbs to a bed, chair, or other object except as authorized by a licensed physician;
- C) Tying a child's hands behind his or her back;
- D) Putting child in a cage; or
- E) Preventing the child's ability to escape in case of an emergency due to a locked or blocked exit.

**Note:** A parent or other person responsible for a child's care, who forces a child to remain in a cage of any size while denying the child use of bathroom facilities and/or food and/or water, commits an act of neglect, cruelty and depravity which should be referred to law enforcement for investigation.

**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe the child was tied or closely confined as the result of one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person(s) responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);

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- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in a tying or close confinement (ABUSE).

### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

- 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) For confinement cases, photographs of and a detailed description of the confining space and the circumstances surrounding the confinement must be included in the investigation file including:

- i) Size of the space;
- ii) Access to help/assistance;
- iii) Heat/ventilation present;
- iv) Duration and frequency of confinement;
- v) Presence or absence of lighting; and
- vi) Reason for confinement.

- B) Determine that the victim was subjected to an unreasonable restriction of mobility or physical movement. Where there are marks/bruises due to close confinement, **Allegation #11 Cuts, Bruises, Welts, Abrasions and Oral Injuries**, should be added to the report.

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- C) For tying cases, the following information must be photographed and documented. Photographs must be placed in the investigative file.
    - i) Type of material used for tying;
    - ii) Description of the object the child was tied to;
    - iii) Access to help/assistance;
    - iv) Duration and frequency of tying;
    - v) Reason for tying; and
    - vi) Presence of bruising or other marks on the child from being tied.
  - D) Determine the type and possible plausible cause of any physical harm, including the exact location of the injury, type, extent of injury, age, and pattern if multiple injuries are present due to being tied. Where there are marks/bruises due to tying, **Allegation #11 Cuts, Bruises, Welts, Abrasions and Oral Injuries**, should be added to the report.
  - E) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Documentation
- A) Obtain a statement from the victim, if the child is verbal, alleging tying/close confinement. Documentation of the victim's statement should include copies of the notes taken during the Forensic Interview (FI) or an interview summary provided by the Child Advocacy Center, if CAC involved.
  - B) When the alleged perpetrator contends that the tying or confinement was recommended by a physician or psychiatrist as a means of controlling the child's behavior, obtain verification from the recommending physician or psychiatrist. The Child Protection Specialist shall interview the physician or psychiatrist to determine what his or her instructions were and what type of condition the tying or confinement was meant to control. The Child Protection Specialist shall consult with the Child Protection Supervisor regarding any such instructions and seek further advice from the Department's Clinical staff and/or medical consultant, if necessary.

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- C) Any and all relevant medical records.
  - D) Secure evidence that the tying/close confinement is a direct result of some action by an eligible perpetrator or the failure of a caregiver to stop the action of another person that results in tying/close confinement.
  - E) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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**Allegation of Harm #15/65**  
**SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

**a) Definitions**

**1) “Controlled substances”**

Those substances defined in Section 120(f) of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act [720 ILCS 570/102(f)] and includes, but is not limited to, such drugs as heroin, cocaine, morphine, peyote, LSD, PCP, pentazocine, and methaqualone.

Marijuana, hashish, and other derivatives of the plant cannabis sativa are not controlled substances.

**2) “Substance affected infants”**

Substance affected infant means an infant who is born with one or more controlled substances in his/her system or who has been diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome.

**A) Option A**

Included in this option is the consumption by the victim of a mood altering chemical, capable of intoxication, to the extent that it affects the child’s health, behavior, motor coordination, judgment or intellectual capacity. Mood altering chemicals include cannabis (marijuana), hallucinogens, stimulants (including cocaine and methamphetamine), sedatives (including alcohol and valium), narcotics or inhalants. (ABUSE/NEGLECT). Abuse occurs if the parent provides the substance to the child. Neglect occurs if the parent allows the use or fails to protect the child from consumption.

**B) Option B**

A diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or drug or alcohol withdrawal, including withdrawal from cannabis or its derivatives, at birth caused by the mother’s use of drugs or alcohol is included in this definition and is considered child neglect (NEGLECT).

**Note:** Methadone withdrawal or other withdrawal verified as under the auspices of a drug treatment program in not included under drug withdrawal at birth.

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C) Option C

This option includes any amount of a controlled substance or a metabolite thereof that is found in the blood, umbilical cord, urine or meconium (newborn's first stool) of a newborn infant. (NEGLECT)

D) The presence of such substances shall not be considered as child neglect if the presence is due to medical treatment of the mother or infant.

E) Methadone withdrawal or other withdrawal verified as under the auspices of a drug treatment program is not included under drug withdrawal at birth.

F) (Options B and C when diagnosed by a physician constitute prima facie evidence of neglect.)

G) Examples

i) Giving a minor (unless prescribed by a physician) any amount of heroin, cocaine, morphine, peyote, LSD, PCP, pentazocine, or methaqualone or encouraging, insisting, or permitting a minor's consumption of the above substances.

ii) Giving any mood altering substance, including alcohol or sedatives, unless prescribed by a physician, to an infant or toddler.

iii) Encouraging, insisting, or permitting any minor to become intoxicated by alcohol, drugs, or another mood altering substance even if on an infrequent basis.

H) Parents supervising children permitted to drink a small amount of alcohol as a part of a religious or family celebration should not be considered abusive/neglectful.

**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the substance misuse resulted from one of the following:

1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (ABUSE);



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- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to stop another person from giving mood altering substances to the child. (ABUSE);
- 3) Blatant disregard of parental (or other person responsible for the child's welfare) responsibilities which resulted in the child's substance misuse. This includes the failure of the parent or caregiver to take reasonable actions to prevent the child from misusing mood altering substances (NEGLECT);
- 4) Blatant disregard of parental responsibilities which resulted in the child's Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or drug or alcohol withdrawal at birth (NEGLECT); or
- 5) Blatant disregard of parental responsibilities which resulted in any amount of a controlled substance or a metabolite thereof, found in the blood, umbilical cord, urine or meconium of a newborn infant (NEGLECT).

### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts:

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

- 2) Required Activities:

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- B) As the presence of drugs/substances and alcohol may dissipate depending upon their chemical structure, immediate action is required. Child Protection Specialists are to ensure the child receives immediate medical attention (same day). Medical examination of involved children (victims and non-victims) is required when there are suspicions they may have taken or been given inappropriate medication or poisonous or noxious substances,

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whether legal or illicit. The Child Protection Specialist is to make diligent efforts to immediately communicate to the physician to whom the child is to be taken prior to the examination to alert the doctor of the suspicion so appropriate testing (blood, urine, etc.) can occur.

There must be a follow-up (within one business day after the examination) interview with the medical provider to discuss consistency of explanation provided by the parent/caregiver, outcome of the examination/lab work, discharge instructions, opinion of abuse/neglect, and the child's explanation if verbal. If testing is not complete, request the estimated completion date and meet with the provider following completion.

- C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

### 3) Required Documentation

- A) Documented medical diagnosis of substance misuse and all relevant medical records.
- B) Evidence that a child has consumed mood-altering chemicals that were provided by or left accessible the child's parent or caregiver or taken at the encouragement or insistence of an eligible perpetrator.
- C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

### 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding

Factors to be considered include:

- A) The age of the child;
- B) The frequency of misuse;
- C) The amount of substance consumed;
- D) The degree of behavioral dysfunction or physical impairment linked to substance use;

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- E) The child's culture as it relates to use of alcohol in religious ceremonies, family gatherings/celebrations, or special occasions;
- F) Whether the parent or caregiver made reasonable attempts to control or seek help for an older child's substance misuse;
- G) Whether the parent or caregiver knew, or should have known, of the child's substance abuse; and
- H) The parent or caregiver failed to take reasonable precautionary measures to prevent consumption.
- I) When drug testing is requested and assistance is needed to identify a specific type of unusual or exotic drugs, (E.g., designer drugs or anabolic steroids) Clinical Specialty Services should be consulted for the appropriate screens. For additional information, staff should reference Section .140(e) of these Procedures.

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**Allegation of Harm #16**  
**TORTURE**

**a) Definition**

Inflicting or subjecting the child to intense physical and/or mental pain, suffering or agony that can be a onetime incident or ongoing. Torture can be severe, repetitive, or prolonged. This definition also includes genital mutilation.

**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the torture resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE); or
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop another person from torturing the child (ABUSE).

**c) Investigating a Report**

- 1) Required Contacts:

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

- 2) Required Activities:

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

**In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation.**

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- A) The Child Protection Specialist shall consult with the Child Protection Supervisor to discuss the need to have the child victim medically examined. A medical exam is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. If the alleged torture is believed to have been particularly violent, a recommendation should be made to the treating physician to perform a long bone scan.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Required Documentation
- A) Obtain a statement from the victim, if the child is verbal, alleging harm that is considered torture. Documentation of the victim's statement should include copies of the notes taken during the FI or an interview summary provided by the Child Advocacy Center, if CAC involved.
  - B) Verifiable documented evidence that the victim exhibits signs of physical and/or mental pain, suffering, or agony that are the result of actions by an alleged perpetrator that may be a one-time incident or repetitive, increased, or prolonged. Include a clear and concise description of the alleged perpetrator's actions.
  - C) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #16**), obtain documentation that verifies that the child was tortured as a result of a direct action of the perpetrator, or the perpetrator has admitted to torturing the child. The Child Protection Specialist and Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with the medical opinion.
  - D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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### Allegation of Harm #17/67

#### MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT

a) **Definition**

Injury to the intellectual, emotional or psychological development of a child as evidenced by observable and substantial impairment in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior.

b) **Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the mental injury resulted from the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE); or
- 2) The blatant disregard of parental or other person responsible for the child's welfare responsibilities in providing the proper or necessary support or other care necessary for the child's well-being (NEGLECT).

c) **Investigating a Report**

1) Required Contacts:

A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

B) There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

2) Required Activities:

A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

B) There are no additional activities specific to this allegation.

3) Required Documentation

A) Secure verification from a qualified expert, as defined below, that a child has suffered observable and substantial impairment to their ability to function within a normal range of performance or behavior due to injury to the intellectual, emotional, or psychological development.

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Verification **must** come from a professional source that has assessed the child and can verify a causal link between the child's mental injury and the action or behavior of the alleged perpetrator, or the blatant disregard exhibited by the parent or caregiver.

- B) Identify and document the causal link between the child's mental injury and the action, behavior or blatant disregard exhibited by the parent/caregiver/alleged perpetrator (e.g. the child's impairment must be directly related to the parent's action).
- C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.



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**Allegation of Harm #18**  
**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS**

**a) Definition**

- 1) Infections that are acquired originally as a result of sexual penetration or sexual conduct with an individual who is afflicted with the disease.
- 2) The infections may include, but are not limited to:
  - A) Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
  - B) AIDS Related Complex (ARC)
  - C) Chancroid
  - D) Chlamydia Trachomatis
  - E) Genital Herpes
  - F) Genital Warts
  - G) Gonorrhea
  - H) Granuloma Inquinale
  - I) HIV Infection
  - J) Lymphogranuloma Venereum
  - K) Neisseria Gonorrhea
  - L) Proctitis
  - M) Syphilis
  - N) Trichomonas Vaginalis (Symptomatic)
- 3) Sexual penetration is defined in the Illinois Criminal Sexual Assault Act as "*any contact, however slight, between the sex organ or anus of one person and an object or the sex organ, mouth, or anus of another person, or any intrusion, however slight, of any part of the body of one person or any animal or object into the sex organ or anus of another person, including, but not limited to, cunnilingus, fellatio, or anal penetration. Evidence of emission of semen is not required to prove sexual penetration.*" 720 ILCS 5/11-0.1.
- 4) Sexual conduct is defined in the Illinois Criminal Sexual Assault Act as "*any knowing touching or fondling by the victim or the accused, either directly or through clothing, of the sex organs, anus, or breast of the victim or the accused, or any part of the body of a child under 13 years of age, or any transfer or transmission of semen by the accused upon any part of the clothed or unclothed body of the victim, for the purpose of sexual gratification or arousal of the victim or the accused.*" 720 ILCS 5/11-0.1.

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### b) Taking a Report

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the infection was contracted as the result of one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in the child contracting the infection (ABUSE); or
- 3) The alleged perpetrator is unknown and the available information does not rule out one of the above persons (ABUSE).

### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts:

- A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**
- B) There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

- 2) Required Activities:

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

**In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation.**

- A) **A medical examination of the alleged child victim is required for this allegation** and shall not be waived. An alleged child victim should be tested **within 24 hours of the report**. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the examining/treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

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- 3) Documentation Required:
- A) Documented medical diagnosis that the child has a Sexually Transmitted Infection and all relevant medical records. Identify and document the type of the infection and all possible methods of transmission. Document the subject's explanation as to how the child might have contracted the infection.  
  
Document the physician's statement regarding the consistency of the subject's explanation and the most likely method of transmission.
  - B) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #18**), obtain documentation that verifies that the child was given a Sexually Transmitted Infection as a result of a direct action of the perpetrator, or the perpetrator has admitted to transmitting the infection to the child. The Child Protection Specialist and Child Protection Supervisor must review the medical documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict with medical opinion.
  - C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding
- There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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### Allegation of Harm #19

#### SEXUAL PENETRATION

##### a) Definition

*Sexual penetration means any contact, however slight, between the sex organ or anus of one person by an object or the sex organ, mouth or anus of another person, or any intrusion, however slight, of any part of the body of one person or any animal or object into the sex organ or anus of another person, including but not limited to cunnilingus, fellatio or anal penetration. Evidence of emissions of semen is not necessary to prove sexual assault. [720 ILCS 5/11-0.1]*

##### b) Taking a Report

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the sexual penetration resulted from one of the following:

- 1) The direct action of a parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other persons residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in sexual penetration (ABUSE); or
- 3) The alleged perpetrator is unknown, and the available information does not rule out one of the above persons (ABUSE).

##### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

- A) Interview the alleged child victim(s) in person and individually. Complete a safety assessment (**CERAP**). Non-verbal children must be thoroughly observed and assessed. Observations and assessment must be documented in a contact note.
  - i) The Child Protection Specialist must NOT photograph or physically examine a sex abuse victim.

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- ii) The Child Protection Specialist should not interview the alleged child victim if, per local protocol, the case is eligible for a Forensic Interview (FI) or the alleged child victim is a child with developmental disabilities who presents with conditions indicative of vulnerability to sexual abuse. The Child Protection Specialist shall refer the involved alleged child victim to the local CAC for an FI as soon as possible if one has not already been conducted. If the victim is “unsafe,” per the **CERAP**, every attempt must be made to arrange an emergency FI.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

**In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation**

- A) Sex abuse victims may receive a medical examination as a part of the CAC investigation process. A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation; however, the Child Protection Specialist must ensure the victim does not receive multiple medical examinations related to the alleged sexual abuse. A medical examination shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied either by the hospital or **CANTS 2A/B**.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Required Documentation
- A) Documented medical evidence/diagnosis that the child was sexually penetrated, medical documentation that does not rule out sexual penetration, and all relevant medical records.

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- B) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #19**), obtain documentation that verifies that the child was sexually penetrated as a result of a direct action of the perpetrator, or the perpetrator has admitted to sexually penetrating the child. The Child Protection Specialist and Child Protection Supervisor must review all documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict.
  - C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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**Allegation of Harm #20**  
**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

**a) Definition**

- 1) Sexual exploitation is the use of a child for sexual arousal, gratification, advantage, or profit. Arousal and gratification of sexual need may be inferred from the act itself and surrounding circumstances. The absence of evidence of arousal or gratification should in no way preclude or inhibit an investigation.
- 2) Sexual exploitation may occur in person or by virtual presence and includes, but is not limited to:
  - A) Indecent solicitation of a child;
  - B) Explicit verbal or physical enticement, coercion or persuasion;
  - C) Child pornography;
  - D) Exposing a child to sexually explicit material in any form;
  - E) Exposing sexual organs to a child;
  - F) Forcing the child to watch sexual acts;
  - G) Masturbation with or in the child's presence; and
  - H) Other behavior by an eligible perpetrator that, when considered in the context of the circumstances, would lead a reasonable person to conclude that sexual exploitation of a child has occurred.

**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the sexual exploitation resulted from one of the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE); or
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, another person residing in the home, parent's paramour, or another person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop another person from sexually exploiting the child (ABUSE).

## REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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### c) Investigating a Report

#### 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

A) Interview the alleged child victim(s) in person and individually. Complete a safety assessment (**CERAP**). Non-verbal children must be thoroughly observed and assessed. Observations and assessment must be documented in a contact note.

i) **The Child Protection Specialist must NOT photograph or physically examine a sex abuse victim.**

ii) The Child Protection Specialist should not interview the victim if, per local protocol, the case is eligible for a Forensic Interview (FI) or the victim is a child with developmental disabilities who presents with conditions indicative of vulnerability to sexual abuse. The Child Protection Specialist shall refer the involved child to the local CAC for an FI, as soon as possible, if one has not already been conducted. If the victim is “unsafe,” per the **CERAP**, every attempt must be made to arrange an emergency FI.

B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

#### 2) Required Activities

A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

B) **In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation.**

C) There are no additional activities specific to this allegation.

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- 3) Required Documentation
- A) Obtain a statement from the victim, if the victim is verbal, alleging sexual exploitation. Documentation of the victim’s statement should include copies of the notes taken during the FI or an interview summary provided by the Child Advocacy Center.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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## REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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### Allegation of Harm #21

#### SEXUAL MOLESTATION

##### a) Definition

- 1) *Sexual conduct means any knowing touching or fondling by the victim or the accused, either directly or through clothing, of the sex organs, anus or breast of the victim or the accused, or any part of the body of a child under 13 years of age, or any transfer or transmission of semen by the accused upon any part of the clothed or unclothed body of victim, for the purpose of sexual gratification or arousal of the victim or the accused. 720 ILCS 5/11-0.1.*
- 2) Arousal and gratification of sexual need may be inferred from the act itself and surrounding circumstances. The absence of evidence of arousal or gratification should in no way preclude or inhibit an investigation.
- 3) Parts of the body as used in the examples below refer to the parts of the body described in the definition of sexual conduct in the Criminal Code of 2012, 720 ILCS 5/11-0.1.
- 4) Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - A) Fondling;
  - B) The alleged perpetrator inappropriately touching or pinching of the child's body generally associated with sexual activity; and
  - C) Encouraging, forcing, or permitting the child to touch parts of the alleged perpetrator's body normally associated with sexual activity.

##### b) Taking a Report

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the sexual molestation resulted from one of the following:

- 1) The direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE); or
- 2) The child's parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or a person responsible for the child's welfare has failed to take reasonable actions to stop another person from sexually molesting the child (ABUSE).

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### c) Investigating a Report

#### 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

- A) Interview the alleged child victim(s) in person and individually. Complete a safety assessment (**CERAP**). Non-verbal children must be thoroughly observed and assessed. Observations and assessment must be documented in a contact note.

**Note:** The Child Protection Specialist must NOT photograph or physically examine a sex abuse victim.

- B) The Child Protection Specialist should not interview the victim if, per local protocol, the case is eligible for a Forensic Interview (FI) or the victim is a child with developmental disabilities who presents with conditions indicative of vulnerability to sexual abuse. The Child Protection Specialist shall refer the involved child to the local CAC for an FI as soon as possible if one has not already been conducted. If the victim is “unsafe,” per the **CERAP**, every attempt must be made to arrange an emergency FI.
- C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

#### 2) Required Activities

- A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**
- B) **In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation.**
- C) The Child Protection Specialist and Supervisor shall consult to assess whether the child victim should be medically examined.
- D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

## **REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

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- 3) Required Documentation
  - A) Obtain a statement from the victim, if the victim is verbal, alleging sexual molestation. Documentation of the victim's statement should include copies of the notes taken during the FI or an interview summary provided by the Child Advocacy Center.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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## REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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### Allegation of Harm #22

#### SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF SEXUAL INJURY

a) **Definition**

The parent, caregiver, immediate family member, person in a position of trust, 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.

A) **Option A**

An indicated, registered, or convicted sex offender has access to a child and the extent/quality of supervision during contact is believed to be inadequate for the child's protection.

B) **Option B**

There are siblings or other children the perpetrator has regular access to and there is a current or pending allegation of sexual abuse.

C) **Option C**

Persistent, highly sexualized behavior or knowledge in a very young child (e.g. under the age of five chronologically or developmentally) that is grossly age inappropriate and there is reasonable cause to believe that the most likely manner in which such behavior was learned is in having been sexually abused.

D) **Option D**

A member of the household has engaged in child pornography activities outside and/or inside the residence, including the making and/or distribution of child pornography, and has significant access to children and the extent/quality of the supervision of those children is unknown or suspected to be deficient.

**Note:** Reports of risk of sexual harm are not to be taken solely on the inappropriate or suggestive behavior of the alleged offender or because there is insufficient information for an allegation of specific sexual abuse, except as defined above.

**Note:** If during the course of the investigation, a specific allegation of harm is identified, the appropriate allegation shall be added and a determination made on all of the allegations. If another allegation is determined to be more appropriate, that allegation should be utilized and the risk unfounded.

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### b) Taking a Report

The reporter/source must have reason to believe that the incident/circumstances that create the risk of sexual abuse resulted from the following:

- 1) A direct action of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE); or
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in substantial risk of sexual abuse to the child (ABUSE).

### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

A) Interview the alleged child victim(s) in person and individually. Complete a safety assessment (**CERAP**). Non-verbal children must be thoroughly observed and assessed. Observations and assessment must be documented in a contact note.

- i) The Child Protection Specialist must NOT photograph or physically examine a sex abuse victim.
- ii) The Child Protection Specialist should not interview the victim if, per local protocol, the case is eligible for a Forensic Interview (FI) or the victim is a child with developmental disabilities who presents with conditions indicative of vulnerability to sexual abuse. The Child Protection Specialist shall refer the involved child to the local CAC for an FI as soon as possible if one has not already been conducted. If the victim is "unsafe," per the **CERAP**, every attempt must be made to arrange an emergency FI.

B) Additional Contacts

- i) Option A
  - a) Interview the probation officer for any subjects of the investigation;

**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](mailto:DCFS.Policy@illinois.gov).

**VII. FILING INSTRUCTIONS**

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

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- b) Interview any past and/or current treatment providers for the alleged perpetrator, if any; and
- c) Interview and obtain any past and/or current treatment provider's evaluation for any subject who is a sex offender.

ii) Option B

There are no additional contacts for Option B

iii) Option C

- a) A clinical consultation must be requested or secure an opinion from a forensic expert;
- b) Interview collaterals/witnesses from different settings to determine if they have witnessed the child's sexualized behavior; and
- c) Interview the current counselor or therapist, if there is one.

iv) Option D

There are no additional contacts for Option D.

**Note:** A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

2) Required Activities

- A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**
- B) **In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation**
- C) The Child Protection Specialist and Supervisor shall consult to assess whether the child victim should be medically examined.

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- D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Required Documentation
- A) Option A
- Documentation of statements made by any involved law enforcement officials, Child Protection staff or clinicians regarding risk to the alleged victim based on the perpetrator's history. Such documentation must verify that there was a previous indication or conviction of sexual abuse of a minor and/or the perpetrator is a registered sex offender, and that the perpetrator has had recent or periodic/ongoing inadequately supervised contact with the alleged victim.
- B) Option B
- Documentation or verification that the victim at risk of sexual injury is residing in the same household as the victim and/or the perpetrator of a pending allegation of specific sexual abuse that is being indicated.
- C) Option C
- Documentation of statements made by witnesses to a very young child's highly sexualized behavior *and* documentation of an expert opinion, via forensic evaluation or clinical consultation, that the child's sexualized behavior is symptomatic of past sexual abuse.
- D) Option D
- Documentation verifying that the person living in the home has child pornography in his or her possession and/or is involved in the making and/or distribution of child pornography and as an eligible perpetrator has either unsupervised access to children or is allowed unrestricted access to children.
- E) Detailed child statement, if the child is verbal, alleging substantial risk of sexual injury. If a forensic interview was conducted, the documentation should include copies of the notes taken at the interview, or a copy of the interview summary provided by the CAC.

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F) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

### 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

Factors to consider include:

#### i) **Option A**

- a) What was the frequency/severity of the first offense or offenses?
- b) What was the length of time since the original conviction or indicated report?
- c) If there was a conviction involving an adult or child victim, what were the ages of the child and perpetrator?
- d) What are the ages of the perpetrator's original victim and current alleged victim?
- e) What is the relationship of the original victim to offender?
- f) What was the alleged perpetrator's length of time with current alleged victims?
- g) Is there documentation of any treatment received by the alleged perpetrator?
- h) What is the age, emotional and developmental issues of the current alleged victims that affect their ability to disclose self-protective information?
- i) What is the current legal status of offender (outside protection)?
- j) Are there other protective adults in home that limits the offender's access to the child victim?

#### ii) **Option B**

**There is nothing further to consider with this specific option.**

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### iii) Option C

- a) Is the behavior/information substantially outside the developmental norms? Use consultation if needed in order to make an informed determination.
- b) Is there sexual activity between the victim and children who are not peers or regular playmates?
- c) Is there preoccupation with sex/sexual behavior to the exclusion of other regular childhood activities?
- d) Is the sexual behavior/knowledge evidenced in public or does the child appear to be unable to stop (behavior appears compulsive) despite clear requests to stop/punishment?
- e) Is the knowledge/behavior increasing in frequency, intensity, etc.?

### iv) Option D

**There is nothing further to consider with this specific option.**



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**Allegation of Harm #40/90**  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN**

**a) Definition**

**1) Human Trafficking**

*“Sex trafficking” means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act. 22 U.S.C. §7102(12).*

*“Severe forms of trafficking in persons” means -*

*sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or*

*the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. 22 U.S.C. §7102(11).*

**2) For the purpose of a child abuse/neglect investigation, force, fraud, or coercion need not be present.**

**3) Incidents of Maltreatment**

**A) Allegation of Harm 40**

**i) Option A**

Human Labor Trafficking: coerced labor exploitation, domestic servitude (ABUSE)

**ii) Option B**

Human Sex Trafficking: commercial sexual exploitation (e.g. prostitution, the production of pornography or sexually explicit performance) (ABUSE)

**B) Allegation of Harm 90**

**i) Option A**

E.g., Blatant disregard of a caregiver’s responsibilities that resulted in Human Labor Trafficking (coerced labor exploitation, domestic servitude) (NEGLECT)

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ii) Option B

Blatant disregard of a caregiver's responsibilities that resulted in Human Sex Trafficking (commercial sexual exploitation (E.g., prostitution, the production of pornography or sexually explicit performance) (NEGLECT)

**b) Taking a Report**

The reporter/source/OPWI must have reason to believe that human trafficking resulted from one or more of the following:

- 1) A direct action of a parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, a parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare (ABUSE);
- 2) The failure of the parent, caregiver, immediate family member, other person residing in the home, the parent's paramour, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to make reasonable efforts to stop an action by another person which resulted in internal injuries (ABUSE); or
- 3) The blatant disregard of the responsibilities of a parent/caregiver, or other person responsible for a child's welfare at the time of incident that resulted in the trafficking of a child (NEGLECT).

**Note:** A person under the age of 18 suspected of or charged with a prostitution offense shall be immune from prosecution for a prostitution offense and shall be subject to the temporary protective custody provisions of Sections 2-5 and 2-6 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-6 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, a law enforcement officer who takes a person under 18 years of age into custody under this section shall immediately report an allegation of a violation of Section 10-9 of this Code to SCR, which shall commence an investigation into child abuse or child neglect within 24 hours, pursuant to Section 7.4 of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

- 4) Factors to be considered when taking a report: **(All factors need not be present when taking the report.)**
  - A) The child's age and cognitive development;
  - B) The child's inability to attend school on a regular basis due to actions of a perpetrator;

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- C) The child who is a runaway;
  - D) The child makes references to frequent travel to other cities;
  - E) The child makes reference to being coerced into performing illegal activities;
  - F) The child is employed or performs work inappropriate for their age;
  - G) The child is not compensated for work performed;
  - H) The child has been isolated from family, friends, religious institutions or other sources of support and protection;
  - I) The child and/or child's family has been threatened with physical harm, deportation or being reported to law enforcement;
  - J) The child shows signs of moderate to severe physical harm;
  - K) The child appears withdrawn, depressed or fearful;
  - L) The child lacks control over his or her schedule;
  - M) The child lacks control over his or her identification documents;
  - N) The child is often hungry or appears malnourished;
  - O) The child is inappropriately dressed for the weather or other physical conditions; or
  - P) The child refers to or shows signs of drug addiction and/or exposure to drug manufacture or trafficking.
- 5) Additional factors that may indicate sex-related trafficking include:
- A) The child having a sudden change in attire, behavior, or material possessions (e.g., has expensive items, dresses provocatively or has unaccounted for money);
  - B) The child makes reference to having a "pimp";
  - C) The child makes references to sexual situations that are beyond age-specific norms;

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- D) The child uses or makes reference to the terminology of the commercial sex trade;
- E) The child has an adult “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is significantly older;
- F) The child engages in sexually provocative behaviors, is promiscuous and/or has unprotected sex with multiple partners; or
- G) The child’s possession of or access to pornographic and/or sexualized content on social media and/or online sources.

### c) Investigating a Report

#### 1) Required Contacts

- A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**
- B) All alleged victims of allegation 40/90 MUST be interviewed at the local CAC. If a DCFS office does not have access to a CAC the Child Protection Specialist shall request a joint interview with law enforcement.
- C) If the allegation is human trafficking by neglect, an effort must be made to identify who trafficked the child.

#### 2) Required Activities

- A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**
- B) **In areas served by a Child Advocacy Center, investigations must be coordinated with the center if the center is willing to work with this allegation**
- C) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation, if the child has been sexually trafficked. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- D) Report the suspected incident of trafficking to the FBI Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force at 312-421-6700.
- E) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

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- 3) Required Documentation
  - A) Documentation that a child under 18 years of age has been recruited, abducted, transported, harbored, or provided for the purpose of labor exploitation and/or commercial sexual exploitation.
  - B) To make a finding of abuse (**Allegation #40**), documentation has been obtained that verifies that the child was trafficked as a result of a direct action of the perpetrator, or the perpetrator has admitted to trafficking the child. The Child Protection Specialist and Child Protection Supervisor must review documentation to ensure report findings do not conflict.
  - C) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #90**), documentation has been obtained that verifies the child was trafficked as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - D) Detailed victim statement alleging human trafficking. If an FI was conducted, the documentation should include copies of the notes taken at the interview, or a copy of the interview summary provided by the CAC.
  - E) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding
  - A) What are the ages of the involved children?
  - B) Does the child have a medical condition, behavioral, mental or emotional problem, or other disability or handicap that would impact his or her potential for being trafficked?
  - C) Is there a pattern of similar instances of human trafficking with this child or other children for whom the parent/caregiver is or has been responsible?
  - D) Was an instrument or weapon used on the victim or was the victim threatened with an instrument or weapon?
  - E) Is there a history of abuse and/or neglect that is verifiable in official records or has substantial corroboration from other credible sources.
  - F) What are the relationship dynamics between the victim and the parent/caregiver? Does the child express fear or mistrust of the parent/caregiver? Does the parent/caregiver appear to be appropriately concerned about the child's welfare and protection?

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- G) Is there any support system in place for the victim and the parent/caregiver?
- H) Identify any issue of substance abuse or the manufacture/distribution of illegal drugs, that involves the child, parent/caregiver, other household members, or others who are frequently in the home.
- I) While force, fraud, or coercion need not be present for the purposes of investigating child abuse/neglect, they may be present. Examples of force, fraud or coercion may include any of the following:
  - i) Threats of serious harm to the child and/or child's family;
  - ii) Physical restraint or threats of restraint to the child;
  - iii) Exposure to violent or intimidating acts towards other children;
  - iv) Promoting and coercing drug and/or alcohol dependency;
  - v) False promises to the victim (e.g., reunification with family; citizenship, or eventual independence);
  - vi) Withholding of basic needs, such as food and shelter;
  - vii) Threats of deportation or other legal processes;
  - viii) Destruction, confiscation or concealment of any identification document belonging to the child (e.g., passport, immigration document, or any other government issued identification); or
  - ix) Extortion or financial control of the child and/or child's family by the threat or act of causing monetary harm.

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### Allegation of Harm #74

#### INADEQUATE SUPERVISION

##### a) Definition

- 1) Inadequate supervision occurs when a child is placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of parental or caregiver responsibilities of care and support, including supervision.
- 2) *"Blatant disregard" means an incident where the real, significant, and imminent risk of harm would be so obvious to a reasonable parent or caretaker that it is unlikely that a reasonable parent or caretaker would have exposed the child to the danger without exercising precautionary measures to protect the child from harm.*  
325 ILCS 5/3.

##### b) Taking a Report

- 1) In order to qualify as a report of inadequate supervision, a child is left unsupervised which may place the child at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard. (NEGLECT).
  - A) Option A – Children Left Home Alone, Outside or in the Community option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm by being left alone at home, outside or in the community due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care.
  - B) Option B – Children Left in Vehicles  

This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm by being left alone inside a vehicle due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care.
  - C) Option C – Children Left in the Care of an Inadequate Caregiver  

This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm by being left in the care of an individual whose age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities posed an obvious risk of likely harm to the child due to a parent's or caretaker's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care.
  - D) Option D – General Category  

This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm when the child is not receiving proper care or support, including supervision due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care.

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- 2) Factors to be considered:
- A) Duration of time of the occurrence in which the child was left without care and support, including necessary supervision;
  - B) Age of the child;
  - C) Special needs of the child;
  - D) Maturity level of the child;
  - E) Frequency of the occurrences in which the child was left without care and support, including necessary supervision;
  - F) Time of day or night the child was left without care and support, including necessary supervision;
  - G) Weather conditions, including whether the child was left in a location with adequate protection from the natural elements, such as adequate heat, light or shelter;
  - H) Condition or location of the place where the child was left without care and support, including necessary supervision, all assessed in the context of how long the child was left alone;
  - I) The location and accessibility of the parent or caregiver to the child;
  - J) The physical distance the child was from the parent or caregiver at the time the child was without care and support, including necessary supervision;
  - K) Whether the child was given a phone number for the parent or caregiver, an emergency number, or other means of contacting the parent, caregiver, or other source of assistance at the time the child was left without care and support, including necessary supervision;
  - L) Whether the child was capable of making an emergency call;
  - M) Whether the child's movement was restricted;
  - N) The child's access to or ability to access provisions necessary for his or her physical well-being, such as food, water, necessary medication or medical treatments;
  - O) The age and physical and mental capabilities of the caregiver;
  - P) The number and ages of the children left at the location;



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- Q) Whether the child was caring for other children and the age of the child left in charge and the ages of the children being cared for;
- R) Other factors that endanger the health and safety of the child; and
- S) Other factors that demonstrate that the parent or caregiver took other precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate the risk of any likely harm to the child.

Consideration of these factors, in the context of the specific circumstances of the child and the actions or inactions of the caregiver, must demonstrate blatant disregard. Generally, there is no one factor that by itself establishes inadequate supervision. In order to indicate a finding for this allegation, there must be credible evidence that the minor was placed at a real, significant, and imminent risk of likely harm due to a parent's or caretaker's blatant disregard. The presence or absence of relevant inculpatory factors may or may not provide credible evidence depending on the specific facts and circumstances of the individual case. Parents are able to make reasonable parenting decisions and judgments that their child is safe.

### c) Investigating a Report

#### 1) Required Contacts

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

- A) In cases where there are non-verbal children and there is an anonymous reporter, an interview must be conducted with a collateral individual who has, or would likely have, information of the family situation and/or the reported incident.
- B) A waiver of any of the requirements of this allegation must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Child Protection Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

#### 2) Required Activities

- A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**
- B) There are no additional activities specific to this allegation.

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3) Required Activities and Documentation / Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Final Finding

A) **Option A:** Children Left Home Alone, Outside or in the Community

- i) This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm by being left alone at home, outside or in the community due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care.
- ii) The Child Protection Specialist should consider all of the factors to be considered, but pay special attention to the following factors for Option A:
  - a) Length of time the child is alone or unsupervised, assessed in the context of the child's developmental stage, capability and level of maturity;
  - b) The age of the child left alone, including an assessment of the child's developmental stage, capability and level of maturity;
  - c) The location of where the child is left alone, including whether the child is left alone at home, the specific location outside where the child is left alone, or the specific location in the community where the child is left alone;
  - d) The distance between the child and the parent or caregiver; including whether the parent or caregiver can reach or assist the child in case of an emergency;
  - e) Whether the parent or caregiver can see and/or hear the child;
  - f) The child's ability to contact the parent or caregiver;
  - g) The child's ability to contact or otherwise access the assistance of other adults or older persons, including the child's knowledge of telephone numbers and emergency telephone numbers;
  - h) The child's level of preparedness for being left alone at home, outside or in the community and the child's feelings about being left alone at home, outside or in the community;

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- i) The child’s access to, or ability to access, provisions necessary for their physical well-being, such as food, water or necessary medications or medical treatments while the child is left alone at home, outside or in the community;
  - j) The frequency in which the child is left home alone, outside or in the community;
  - k) Child’s own feeling about being alone;
  - l) Time of day or night the child is left alone;
  - m) Conditions and location of the place where the child was left alone, including weather conditions and the availability of any shelter;
  - n) Specific conditions regarding the surroundings of the child, including whether there were any dangerous conditions that were known, or should have been known to the parent or caregiver;
  - o) Whether the parent or caregiver took any precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate any risk of real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm and the nature and extent of the precautionary measures;
  - p) Parent or caregiver’s intent to leave the child alone, including whether the decision was planned or the result of an emergency, mistake, or miscommunication.
  - q) Whether the child is left alone to provide care for other children, if unable to do so.
- iii) Examples of circumstances that in and of themselves do not independently constitute “blatant disregard” or a “real, significant, and imminent risk of likely harm”:
- a) Leaving school age children home alone. School age children may be left alone in the judgment of reasonable parents unless the Department has evidence of a real, significant, and imminent risk of harm based on the factors described in this procedure;

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- b) Leaving any child inside the home for a few minutes (unless in an obviously dangerous position) while the parent or caregiver takes out the trash; and
- c) Children who became unattended without a caregiver's knowledge or awareness (e.g., a child who accidentally wanders off or escapes the home temporarily).

### **B) Option B: Children Left in Vehicles**

- i) This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm by being left alone inside a vehicle due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care.
- ii) The Child Protection Specialist should consider all of the factors to be considered, but pay special attention to the following factors for Option B:
  - a) Length of time the child left alone inside a vehicle, assessed in the context of the child's developmental stage, capability and level of maturity;
  - b) The weather conditions at the time the child is left alone inside the vehicle, including both the presence or absence of weather conditions that could place the child at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm;
  - c) The age of the child left alone inside a vehicle, including an assessment of the child's developmental stage, capability and level of maturity;
  - d) The location of where the child is left alone inside a vehicle, including whether the parent or caregiver can see/hear the child left alone inside a vehicle;
  - e) The distance between the child and the parent or caregiver; including whether the parent or caregiver can reach or assist the child in case of an emergency;
  - f) Any obvious specific conditions in the vehicle, its location or vicinity that placed the child at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm;
  - g) The child's ability to contact the parent or caregiver;

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- h) The child’s ability to contact or otherwise access the assistance of other adults;
  - i) The child’s level of preparedness for being left alone in the vehicle, including the child’s feelings about being left alone in a vehicle;
  - j) The reason for the parent’s or caretaker’s absence from the vehicle, assessed in the context of the length of time for which the parent or caregiver was absent;
  - k) The child’s access to, or ability to access, provisions necessary for their physical well-being, such as food, water or necessary medications or medical treatments while the child is left alone in a vehicle;
  - l) Child’s ability to contact the parent or caregiver or otherwise access the assistance of other adults or older children, including knowledge of telephone numbers, including cell phones and emergency telephone numbers;
  - m) Time of day or night the child is left alone in the vehicle; and
  - n) Whether the parent or caregiver took any precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate any risk of real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm and the nature and extent of the precautionary measures (including any specific conditions inside the vehicle that mitigated the risk of likely harm).
- iii) Examples of circumstances that in and of themselves do not independently constitute “blatant disregard” or a “real, significant, and imminent risk of likely harm”:
- a) The act of a parent running an errand while leaving a child in a car; and
  - b) The mere fact that a child’s movement may be restricted in a vehicle. Whether a child’s movement is restricted in a vehicle can be either an inculpatory or exculpatory factor depending on the circumstances, such as the child’s age.

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- C) **Option C: Children Left in the Care of an Inadequate Caregiver**
- i) This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm by being left in the care of an individual whose age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities posed an obvious risk of likely harm to the child due to a parent's or caretaker's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care.
  - ii) The Child Protection Specialist should consider all of the factors to be considered, but pay special attention to the following factors for Option C:
    - a) The length of time the child is left with an individual whose age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities poses an obvious risk of likely harm to the child;
    - b) The age of the child left with an individual whose age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities poses an obvious risk of likely harm to the child or children, including an assessment of the child's developmental stage, capability and level of maturity;
    - c) The number of children and the ages of the children left with an individual whose age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities poses an obvious risk of likely harm to the children, including an assessment of the child's or children's developmental stage, capability and level of maturity;
    - d) How the age, specific impairment, lack of qualification or insufficient capability of the caregiver affects their ability to supervise the child or children; and the information and or basis upon which the Child Protection Specialist determines information regarding the age, impairment, lack of qualification or insufficient capability of the caregiver;
    - e) How the specific age, impairment, lack of qualification or insufficient capability of the caregiver poses an obvious risk of likely harm to the child;
    - f) The caregiver's ability to contact the child's parent;
    - g) The caregiver's ability to contact or otherwise access the assistance of other adults;

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- h) The caregiver's access to, or ability to access, provisions necessary for the child's physical well-being, such as food, water or necessary medications or medical treatments;
  - i) The child's ability to contact his or her parent;
  - j) The child's ability to contact or otherwise access the assistance of other adults;
  - k) The child's ability to contact the parent or otherwise access the assistance of other adults or older children, including knowledge of telephone numbers, including cell phones and emergency telephone numbers;
  - l) Whether the parent knew or should have known that the caregiver, due to the caregiver's age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities poses an obvious risk of likely harm to the child;
  - m) The reason or explanation of the parent for leaving the child with a caregiver, whose age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities poses an obvious risk of likely harm to the child; and
  - n) Whether the parent took any precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate any risk of real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm and the nature and extent of the precautionary measures.
- iii) The Child Protection Specialist is not to assume that a child's medical or psychological/behavioral conditions or diagnosis renders them unable to be alone. In order for the condition or diagnosis to be properly considered as a factor there must be information from an appropriate person with prior knowledge of the child (who may include, but is not limited to, a psychologist, doctor, teacher, or caregiver who is aware of the impact of the condition on the child's abilities) establishing that the child's condition or diagnosis impairs his or her developmental stage, capabilities, and/or level of maturity to the extent that leaving the child without appropriate adult supervision poses a likelihood of real, significant and imminent harm.
- iv) An example of circumstances that in and of themselves do not independently constitute "blatant disregard" or a "real, significant, and imminent risk of likely harm": Leaving a younger child in the care of a child age 11 or older for a few hours.

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### D) **Option D:** General Category

- i) This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm when the child is not receiving proper care or support, including supervision due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care.
- ii) The Child Protection Specialist should consider all of the factors to be considered, but pay special attention to the following factors for Option D:
  - a) The age of the child who was not receiving proper care or support, including supervision, including an assessment of the child's developmental stage, capability and level of maturity;
  - b) The length of time the child was not receiving proper care or support, including supervision;
  - c) The number of children and the ages of the children who were not receiving proper care or support, including supervision;
  - d) The child's ability to contact his or her parent;
  - e) The child's ability to contact or otherwise access the assistance of other adults;
  - f) The child's ability to contact the parent or otherwise access the assistance of other adults or older children, including knowledge of telephone numbers, including cell phones and emergency telephone numbers;
  - g) Whether the parent knew or should have known that the child or children were not receiving proper care or support, including supervision;
  - h) The reason or explanation of the parent for leaving the child without proper care or support, including supervision;
  - i) The frequency in which the child or children are left without proper care or support, including supervision; or
  - j) Whether the parent took any precautionary measures to prevent or mitigate any risk of real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm and the nature and extent of the precautionary measures.



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- iii) An example of circumstances that in and of themselves do not independently constitute “blatant disregard” or a “real, significant, and imminent risk of likely harm”: An elementary school student deliberately attempts to evade the teacher’s supervision while outside at recess, where the teacher was not on notice of special measures she needed to take to supervise the child.

### 4) Required Documentation

#### A) Option A: Children Left Home Alone, Outside or in the Community

This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm by being left alone at home, outside or in the community due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care. The Child Protection Specialist shall document, in addition to the other required information:

- i) Length of time the child is left alone;
- ii) Age of the child or children left alone;
- iii) The specific distance between the location of where the child is left alone, whether at home, outside or in a specific location in the community outside and the child’s parent and/or caregiver;
- iv) The specific weather conditions at the time the child is left alone outside or in the community, including the temperature and other important weather conditions; and
- v) The specific means by which the child can contact the parent or caregiver.

#### B) Option B: Children Left in Vehicles

This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm by being left alone inside a vehicle due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care. The Child Protection Specialist shall document, in addition to the other required information:

- i) Length of time the child is left alone in a vehicle;
- ii) Age of the child or children left alone in a vehicle;

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- iii) The specific distance between the location of where the child is left alone in a vehicle, including whether the parent or caregiver can see or hear the child;
- iv) The specific weather conditions at the time the child is left alone in a vehicle, including the temperature; and
- v) The specific means by which the child can contact the parent or caregiver.

### C) **Option C: Children Left in the Care of an Inadequate Caregiver**

This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm by being left in the care of an individual whose age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities posed an obvious risk of likely harm to the child due to a parent's or caretaker's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care. The Child Protection Specialist shall document, in addition to the other required information:

- i) The length of time the child is left with an individual whose age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities poses an obvious risk of likely harm to the child; and
- ii) The age of the child left with an individual whose age, impairment, lack of qualifications or insufficient capabilities poses an obvious risk of likely harm to the child or children, including an assessment of the child's developmental stage, capability and level of maturity.

### D) **Option D: General Category**

This option may be used when a child has been placed at a real, significant and imminent risk of likely harm when the child is not receiving proper care or support, including supervision due to a parent's or caregiver's blatant disregard of his or her duty of care.

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### Allegation of Harm #75

#### ABANDONMENT/DESERTION

##### a) Definition

###### 1) Abandonment

Abandonment is conduct by a parental/legal guardian that demonstrates the purpose of relinquishing all parental/legal rights and claims to the child. Abandonment is also defined as any parental or caregiver conduct which evinces a settled purpose to forego all parental/legal claims to a child.

###### 2) Desertion

Desertion is any conduct on the part of a parent or legal guardian which indicates that they have no intention, now or in the future, to maintain any degree of interest, concern or responsibility for the child. Desertion includes leaving a child with no apparent intention to return, unless the child has been left in the care of a relative.

**Note:** This excludes any child relinquished in accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act 325, ILCS 2/1 *et seq.*

###### 3) Examples of abandonment/desertion include, but are not limited to, parents/legal guardians who:

A) Leave a baby on the doorstep;

B) Leave a baby in the garbage can;

C) Leave a child with no apparent intention to return; or

D) Leave a child with an appropriate caregiver but fail to resume care of the child, as agreed, and the caregiver cannot or will not continue to care for the child.

##### b) Taking a Report

A child has been abandoned and/or deserted due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT).

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**c) Investigating a Report**

1) Required Contacts

A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

B) There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

2) Required Activities

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

A) The Child Protection Specialist in consultation with the Child Protection Supervisor shall determine if the child needs a medical examination. The Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.

B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

3) Documentation Required

A) There is documented evidence that the child has been abandoned or deserted.

B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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**Allegation of Harm #76**  
**INADEQUATE FOOD**

**a) Definition**

- 1) Inadequate food means that there is a lack of food to adequately sustain normal functioning. It is not as severe as malnutrition or failure to thrive, both of which require a medical diagnosis.
- 2) Examples of inadequate food include, but are not limited to:
  - A) The child who frequently and repeatedly misses meals or who is frequently and repeatedly fed insufficient amounts of food;
  - B) The child who frequently and repeatedly asks neighbors for food and other information substantiates that the child is not being fed; and
  - C) The child who is frequently and repeatedly fed unwholesome foods when his age, developmental stage, and physical condition are considered.

**b) Taking a Report**

- 1) A child has not received/is not receiving adequate food due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT)
- 2) Factors to be considered include:
  - A) Child Factors
    - i) What is the child's age and developmental stage?
    - ii) What is the child's physical condition as it relates to the need for a special diet?
    - iii) What are the child's mental abilities, particularly as it relates to his or her ability to obtain and prepare his own food?
  - B) Incident Factors
    - i) What is the frequency of the occurrence?
    - ii) What is the duration of the occurrence?

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- iii) What is the chronicity or pattern of occurrence?
- iv) What is the availability of adequate food?

**c) Investigating a Report**

- 1) Required Contacts:
  - A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**
  - B) There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.
- 2) Required Activities:
  - A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**
  - B) There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.
- 3) Documentation Required
  - A) There is evidence that documents that a child is receiving insufficient or inadequate food.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding
  - Factors to consider include:
    - A) What age is the involved child or children?
    - B) Does the child have a medical condition; behavioral, mental or emotional problem; or disability or handicap that impacts a child's diet or ability to feed themselves?
    - C) What is the frequency, severity and duration of the neglect?

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### Allegation of Harm #77

#### INADEQUATE SHELTER

##### a) Definition

###### Inadequate Shelter

- 1) Inadequate shelter means there is a lack of shelter that is safe and able to protect a child from the elements.
- 2) Examples of inadequate shelter include, but are not limited to:
  - A) No housing or shelter;
  - B) Condemned housing;
  - C) Exposed, frayed wiring;
  - D) Housing with structural defects which endanger the health or safety of the child;
  - E) Housing with indoor temperatures consistently below 50 degrees F;
  - F) Housing with broken windows in sub-zero weather;
  - G) Housing that is an obvious fire hazard; and
  - H) Housing with an unsafe heat source that poses a fire hazard or threat of asphyxiation.

##### b) Taking a Report

The reporter/source has reason to believe that a child is being inadequately sheltered due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT)

##### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts:
  - A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**
  - B) There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.
- 2) Required Activities:
  - A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**
  - B) There are no additional activities specific to this allegation.

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- 3) Required Documentation
- A) Documented observations that demonstrate that a child's living conditions are inadequate to the point the child's health and safety may be impaired due to the blatant disregard of the parent/caregiver. Documentation must cite specific inadequacy of the shelter.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding

Factors to be considered include:

- A) What is the child's age and developmental stage?
- B) What is the child's physical condition, particularly when the inadequate shelter may aggravate it?
- C) What are the child's mental abilities, particularly as it relates to the child's ability to comprehend the dangers posed by the inadequate shelter?
- D) What is the seriousness of the problem?
- E) What is the frequency of the problem?
- F) What is the duration of the problem?
- G) What is the pattern or chronicity of the problem?



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**Allegation of Harm #78**  
**INADEQUATE CLOTHING**

**a) Definition**

A lack of appropriate clothing to protect the child from the elements or the wearing of inadequate clothing results in injury to the child.

**b) Taking a Report**

- 1) A child is/has been inadequately clothed due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT)
- 2) Factors to be considered include:
  - A) What is the frequency of the incident?
  - B) What is the duration of the incident?
  - C) What is the chronicity or pattern of occurrence?
  - D) What are the weather conditions such as extreme heat or extreme cold?

**c) Investigating a Report**

- 1) **Required Contacts:**
  - A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**
  - B) There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.
- 2) Required Activities:
  - A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**
  - B) There are no additional activities specific to this allegation.

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- 3) Required Documentation
  - A) Documented evidence (observations and/or photographs) that demonstrates that the child's clothing is inadequate to the point that the child's health and safety may be impaired.
  - B) There has been a thorough and specific identification and documentation of clothing issues which pose harm or significant risk of harm to the child as well as documentation of the parent's blatant disregard and failure to take precautionary measures.
  - C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding

Factors to consider include:

- A) The child's age and developmental stage, particularly as it relates to the ability to make judgments regarding appropriate clothing.
- B) The child's physical condition, particularly as it relates to conditions that may be aggravated by exposure to the elements.
- C) The child's mental abilities, particularly as it relates to his or her ability to obtain appropriate clothing.
- D) What is the frequency of the incident?
- E) What is the duration of the incident?
- F) What is the chronicity or pattern of occurrence?
- G) What are the weather conditions such as extreme heat or extreme cold?

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### Allegation of Harm #79

#### MEDICAL NEGLECT

##### a) Definition

###### Medical or Dental Treatment

- 1) Treatment is the administration of a remedy to address a health condition.

Medical neglect is the lack of medical or dental treatment for a health problem or condition that, if untreated or not treated as prescribed, could become severe enough to constitute serious or long-term harm to the child; lack of follow-through on a reasonable prescribed medical or dental treatment plan for a condition that could become serious enough to constitute serious or long-term harm to the child if the treatment or treatment plan goes unimplemented.

- 2) Management is the practice of providing care of a medical condition. Examples of management medical neglect include, but are not limited to:
  - A) Lack of medical or dental management for a health problem or condition that, if unmanaged or not managed as prescribed, could become severe enough to constitute serious or long-term harm to the child.
  - B) Lack of proper or necessary health care recognized under State law as necessary for the child's well-being.
  - C) Lack of proper and necessary preventive health care such as HIV and newborn screening tests that place children at serious risk of illness due to lack of early detection and treatment.
- 3) Health care professionals providing or managing treatment include physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, dentists, physical therapists, infant development specialists and nutritionists.

##### b) Taking a Report

- 1) A child has not/is not receiving proper and necessary medical or dental care as defined above due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT)
- 2) Factors to be considered include:
  - A) The child's age particularly as it relates to the ability to obtain and implement treatment.

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- B) What is the seriousness of the child’s current health concern or condition?
  - C) What is the child’s physical condition?
  - D) What is the child’s developmental level/capacity?
  - E) If the child’s current health problem is not treated, what is the seriousness of the outcome?
  - F) What are the generally accepted health benefits of the prescribed treatment?
  - G) What are the generally recognized side effects/harms associated with the prescribed treatment?
- 3) If a physician notifies SCR that temporary protective custody has been taken because the parent/caregiver’s religious beliefs do not permit them to consent to necessary medical care, such information must be transmitted by the physician to the local State’s Attorney’s Office. No investigation will be taken unless there is additional information supporting other allegations of abuse or neglect.

### c) Investigating a Report

- 1) Required Contacts:

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

- 2) Required Activities:

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed.
  - i) In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.

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- iii) The Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physical or nurse complete the **CANTS 65-B** as well.
  - B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Required Documentation
- A) After the definition of medical neglect is read to the medical professional making the diagnosis, documented medical diagnosis that the child was medically neglected and all relevant medical records, including prescription refill history if the neglect is a result of failure to provide necessary prescription medications.
  - B) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #79**), a medical opinion has been obtained and it is determined the child was medically neglected as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding
- A) Factors to consider include:
    - i) What is the child's health condition?
    - ii) What is the seriousness of the child's current health condition?
    - iii) What is the probable medical and seriousness of the outcome if the current health condition is not treated?
    - iv) What are the generally accepted health benefits of the prescribed treatment/management?
    - v) What are the generally recognized side effects/harms associated with the prescribed treatment/management?

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- vi) What is the judgment of the treating physician regarding whether treatment/management is medically indicated and whether there is credible evidence of medical neglect?
  - vii) Was the parent informed of the above and what is the parent's ability to understand and/or carry out the treatment/management plan?
- B) A medical or dental provider states, or there is evidence to support, that the child's medical treatment/management plan is not being followed by the parent/caregiver and/or:
- i) A medical provider or other professional collateral states concerns about the behavior of the parent/caregiver associated with his or her willingness to follow or continue to follow the child's medical treatment/management plan, and that the situation has or will result in medical consequences for the child: and/or
  - ii) There are conflicting medical opinions concerning the appropriate care for the child; and/or
  - iii) There is disagreement concerning the rights of the parent/caregiver to choose specific medical treatment/management plans.

**DATE:** June 6, 2022

**TO:** Child Welfare Specialists at the State Central Registry and Child Protection Specialists

**FROM:** Tierney Stutz, Chief Deputy Director, Division of Child Protection and State Central Registry

**RE:** Reports to the Department involving refusal to provide Vitamin K shot and/or erythromycin eye ointment to Infants

This memo provides clarification for *Child Welfare Specialists* working at the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline regarding how to assess information from a reporter who states that a parent/caregiver has refused to allow their newborn to be administered a dose of Vitamin K and/or erythromycin eye ointment.

This memo also provides clarification for *Child Protection Specialists* receiving assignment of an investigation involving a parent/caregiver who has refused to allow their newborn to be administered a dose of Vitamin K and/or erythromycin eye ointment.

The Department relies on the guidance given by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), other established organizations, such as the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (UPSTF) and the DCFS Medical Director in assessing the medical safety and well-being of the children brought to our attention.

Consistent with AAP and CDC guidance, DCFS accepts that all newborns are deficient in Vitamin K which places them at risk of Vitamin K deficiency bleeding. Administration of Vitamin K at birth is the best way to ensure newborns do not develop Vitamin K deficiency bleeding. Both organizations further recommend that health care providers provide reliable information to parents so that parents can make the most informed choices about their child's medical care and protect them from potentially devastating health consequences. The recommended information shared with parents includes the benefits of Vitamin K and the risk of Vitamin K deficiency bleeding in newborns that do not receive adequate Vitamin K prophylaxis at birth.

The UPSTF recommends the provision of an antibiotic eye ointment to prevent gonococcal eye infections.

**Refusal by a parent(s) to allow administration of Vitamin K and/or erythromycin eye ointment to their newborn infant, in and of itself, does not meet criteria to be accepted as a report of Allegation of Harm #79, Medical Neglect.**

Unless it is marked as an Emergency Response, if a *Child Protection Specialist* receives assignment of an investigation that involves a refusal by a parent(s) to allow administration of Vitamin K and/or erythromycin eye ointment, they are to consult with DCFS Medical Director prior to initiating the investigation.



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### Allegation of Harm #81

#### FAILURE TO THRIVE (NON-ORGANIC)

##### a) Definition

- 1) Failure to thrive is a serious medical condition most often seen in children less than one year of age, but can occur in children up to 3 years of age. The child's weight, height, weight for length, and motor development fall significantly short of the average growth rates of normal children (E.g., below the fifth percentile). Failure to thrive is the failure to achieve expected growth. More precisely, the medical problem is that the child is malnourished. The severity of the malnutrition must be assessed by the medical provider using appropriate growth charts.
- 2) In a small percentage of failure to thrive cases there is an organic cause such as a serious kidney, heart, or intestinal disease, a genetic error of metabolism or brain damage. Commonly, in non-organic failure to thrive there is a disturbed parent/child relationship that manifests itself as physical and emotional neglect of the child. Diseases or medical conditions (organic) that cause growth failure and psychosocial reasons (non-organic) that cause growth failure are often found concurrently so there needs to be consideration of multifactorial conditions.

##### b) Taking a Report

- 1) A child has failure to thrive syndrome as a result of the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT)
- 2) Factors to be considered include:
  - A) The child's weight is below the fifth percentile of the normal range for a child of that age; or the child's weight has dropped more than two major percentiles; but substantial weight gain occurs when the child is properly nourished and nurtured, such as when hospitalized;
  - B) The child exhibits improved motor development when there is adequate feeding and appropriate stimulation; and
  - C) Medical examination provides no evidence that disease or medical abnormality is the sole cause for the symptoms.
- 3) It must be taken into consideration that, when assessing potential Failure to Thrive reports and conducting investigation of a child suspected of suffering from Failure to Thrive, that Failure to Thrive is a multifactorial condition and the existence of an organic cause does not preclude an accompanying non-organic cause.

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### c) Investigating a Report

#### 1) Required Contacts:

- A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**
- B) Consultation with the DCFS Nurse is required for this allegation.
- C) Waiver of any contact must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

#### 2) Required Activities:

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

#### 3) Documentation Required

- A) Documented medical diagnosis that the child is failure to thrive (nonorganic) and all relevant medical records.

**Note:** Verification must be obtained whether the child was premature at birth and whether prematurity was considered in the diagnosis.

- B) Verify the child's weight is below the fifth percentile of the normal range but substantial weight gain occurs when the child is properly nourished and nurtured.
- C) Document whether the child exhibits improved motor development when there is adequate feeding and appropriate stimulation.

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- D) If possible, identify a probable cause for failure to thrive (non-organic) (e.g. disturbed parent-child relationship).
  - E) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #81**), documentation has been obtained that verifies the child is Failure to Thrive (non-organic) as the result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - F) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding
- There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.

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**Allegation of Harm #82**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL NEGLECT**

**a) Definition**

The child's person, clothing or living conditions are unsanitary to the point there is a likelihood of harm to the child's health, physical well-being or welfare. This may include, but is not limited to, infestations of rodents, spiders, insects, snakes, human or animal feces, rotten or spoiled food or rotten or spoiled garbage.

**b) Taking a Report**

- 1) A child is living in the conditions defined above due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT)
- 2) Factors to be considered include:
  - A) Child Factors
    - i) Child's age?
    - ii) What is the child's developmental stage?
    - iii) Does the child have a physical condition?
  - B) Incident Factors
    - i) What is the severity of the conditions?
    - ii) What is the chronicity or pattern of similar conditions?

**c) Investigating a Report**

- 1) Required Contacts:
  - A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**
  - B) There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.
- 2) Required Activities:
  - A) **All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**
  - B) There are no additional activities specific to this allegation.

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- 3) Required Documentation
- A) Evidence has been documented through observations and photographs that demonstrate that a child's person, clothing or living conditions are unsanitary to the point there is a likelihood of harm to the child's health, physical well-being or welfare.
  - B) There has been a thorough identification and documentation of the specific environmental issues that pose harm or significant risk of harm to the child.
  - C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding
- Factors to be considered include:
- A) What is the age of the involved child?
  - B) Does the child have a medical condition; behavioral, mental or emotional problem; or disability or handicap that impacts their ability to seek help.
  - C) Is there a history or similar instances with this child or other children for whom the caregiver has been responsible?
  - D) What is the severity of the condition?
  - E) Is there a previous history of abuse and/or neglect?

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**Allegation of Harm #83**  
**MALNUTRITION (NON-ORGANIC)**

**a) Definition**

The inadequate consumption of necessary and proper nutrition. Common causes of malnutrition are inadequate calorie consumption; inadequate intake of essential vitamins, minerals, or other micronutrients; and intoxication by nutrient excesses. Malnutrition typically occurs in children ages 3 and up. Children who are extremely obese where the obesity is causing life threatening conditions is also a form of malnutrition.

**b) Taking a Report**

A child is or was malnourished (non-organic) due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT)

**c) Investigating a Report**

1) Required Contacts

- A) **All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**
- B) There are no additional contacts specific to this allegation.

2) Required Activities:

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived if the child is an infant, is non-verbal, or is developmentally delayed. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

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- 3) Documentation Required
- A) A documented medical diagnosis of non-organic malnutrition and all relevant medical records.
  - B) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #83**), documentation has been obtained that verifies the child was malnourished as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding

There are no additional factors specific to this allegation.



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### Allegation of Harm #84 LOCK-OUT

#### a) Definition

A child is considered “locked out” when the parent or caregiver has denied the child access to the home *and* has refused or failed to make provisions for another living arrangement for the child where immediately prior to the report the child was:

1) **OPTION A**

At the police station, a CCBYS (Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services) provider, school or another location in the community.

2) **OPTION B**

Psychiatrically hospitalized.

3) **OPTION C**

In a correctional facility (Department of Juvenile Justice, jail, local detention center).

#### b) Taking a Report

A child has been/is locked out of his/her home, excluding a CCBYS placement, due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent or other person responsible for the child’s welfare (NEGLECT)

#### c) Investigating a Report

1) The Child Protection Specialist must initiate the investigation by seeing the victim within **24 hours** of the initial report. If the lock out cannot be resolved within **48 hours**, the Child Protection Specialist, in consultation with the Child Protection Supervisor, shall take the victim into protective custody.

2) Required Contacts:

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

A) Within 24 hours, the Child Protection Specialist shall discuss with the youth services agency providing services to the youth the following:

- i) The status of the child with the agency;
- ii) The circumstances of the allegation;

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- iii) The agency’s activities related to the youth’s placement; and
  - iv) Contact information for the youth’s relatives.
- B) Convene a child and family meeting, to include the youth services agency, within **48 hours** of the initial report, excluding weekends and holidays.
- C) Interview anyone who has provided an alternative living arrangement for the alleged victim in the past.
- D) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Required Activities:
- All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**
- A) A clinical staffing may be convened within 48 hours of primary assignment if clinically indicated for Options A and C, but is **required for Option B.**
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Required Documentation
- A) Document the parent’s/caregiver’s statement that they refuse to allow the alleged victim access to the home and refuse to make an alternative living arrangement for the child.
- B) Documentation of the alleged victim’s interview.
- C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor’s decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

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- 5) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding
- A) Adolescent victims of this allegation may exhibit violent, threatening behavior, dangerous criminal activity or serious mental illness, which may be the primary cause of their problems in the home. The lock-out may reflect parental inability to independently access the necessary correctional, therapeutic or structured setting services (e.g. MRAI, ICG, IEP, etc.). The following factors should be considered in determining whether the available evidence substantiates a finding of neglect:
- i) What is the age of the alleged victim?
  - ii) Is the alleged victim currently hospitalized or recently discharged from a psychiatric facility?
  - iii) Has the alleged child victim recently been discharged from a correctional facility?
  - iv) If the youth's parent alleges that the youth has a history of serious psychiatric problems, can the parents produce documentation of numerous attempts to secure services for the youth (e.g. past hospitalizations, treatment, counseling, etc.)?
  - v) Was the alleged victim cooperative with past services?
  - vi) Is there a documented history of serious, violent behavior toward family members?
  - vii) Is the alleged victim a juvenile sex offender with siblings or other children in the home?
  - viii) Is the alleged victim currently the subject of a police investigation or a delinquency petition?
  - ix) Have the parents already tried informal alternate living arrangements that have failed due to the alleged victim's behavior?
  - x) Has the alleged victim previously been referred as a MRAI?
  - xi) Does the alleged victim express a willingness to return to the home or remain and participate in recommended services?
  - xii) Has a professional suggested to the parents that the alleged victim needs residential placement services that can be provided by DCFS?

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- B) If factors indicate that the evidence suggests that neglect has not occurred and the living arrangement for the youth remains unresolved, the Child Protection Specialist must assist in linking the family with the appropriate service system (e.g. MRAI, mental health/SASS, etc.). A no-fault dependency should be considered if the situation is unresolved and the Child Protection Specialist has obtained a clinical consultation.

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### Allegation of Harm #85

#### MEDICAL NEGLECT OF DISABLED INFANTS

##### a) Definition

- 1) Medical neglect of a disabled infant means the withholding of appropriate nutrition, hydration, medication or other medically indicated treatment from a **disabled infant with a life-threatening condition**. Medically indicated treatment includes medical care which is most likely to relieve or correct all life-threatening conditions and evaluations or consultations necessary to assure that sufficient information has been gathered to make informed medical decisions. Nutrition, hydration, and medication, as appropriate for the infant's needs, are medically indicated for all disabled infants. Other types of treatment are **not** medically indicated when:
  - A) The infant is chronically and irreversibly comatose;
  - B) The provision of the treatment would be futile and would merely prolong dying; or
  - C) The provision of the treatment would be virtually futile and the treatment itself would be inhumane under the circumstances.
- 2) In determining whether treatment will be medically indicated, reasonable medical judgments such as those made by a prudent physician knowledgeable about the case and its treatment possibilities will be respected. Opinions about the infant's future "quality of life" are not to bear on whether a treatment is judged to be medically indicated.
- 3) Whenever a hospital has an Infant Care Review Committee, Department Child Protection staff or the Perinatal Coordinator will consult with the committee and will document in writing any disagreements with the committee's recommendations and the reasons for them. **(See Procedures 300.Appendix C)**

##### b) Taking a Report

- 1) A disabled infant has not received/is not receiving medically indicated treatment (includes appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication and independent evaluations and consultations) due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by a parent, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT)
- 2) Factors to be considered include:
  - A) What is the infant's physical condition?
  - B) What is the seriousness of the current health problem?

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- C) What is the probable medical outcome if the current health problem is not treated and the seriousness of that outcome?
- D) What are the generally accepted medical benefits of the prescribed treatment?
- E) What are the generally recognized side effects/harms associated with the prescribed treatment?
- F) What are the opinions of the Infant Care Review Committee (ICRC) if the hospital has an ICRC?
- G) What is the judgment of the DCFS nurse regarding whether treatment is medically indicated and whether there is credible evidence of medical neglect?
- H) What is the parent's knowledge and understanding of the treatment and the probable medical outcome?
- I) If a physician notifies SCR that protective custody has been taken because the parent/caregiver's religious beliefs do not permit them to consent to necessary medical care, the information must be transmitted to the local State's Attorney's Office without intervening investigation, unless there is additional information supporting other allegations of abuse or neglect.

### c) Investigating a Report

#### 1) Required Contacts:

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

- A) Consult with the DCFS nurse.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

#### 2) Required Activities:

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

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- A) A medical examination of the child is required for this allegation and shall not be waived. In a hospital setting, the Child Protection Specialist should request that the treating physician or nurse complete a diagram supplied by the hospital or use the **CANTS 2A/B**.
  - B) The Child Protection Specialist shall complete a DCFS nurse referral and refer to **Procedures 300.100, Medical Requirements for Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect**, for guidance in involving the DCFS Regional Nurse.
  - C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 3) Documentation Required
- A) Documented medical diagnosis of the medical neglect of a disabled infant and all relevant medical records.
  - B) To make a finding of neglect (**Allegation #85**), documentation has been obtained and it is determined the disabled infant was medically neglected as a result of blatant disregard by an eligible perpetrator.
  - C) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.
- 4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding
- Factors to consider include:
- A) What is the infant's medical condition?
  - B) What is the seriousness of the child's current health problem?
  - C) What are the probable medical outcomes if the current health problem is not treated and the seriousness of that outcome?
  - D) What are the generally accepted medical benefits of the prescribed treatment?

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- E) What are the generally recognized side effects/harms associated with the prescribed treatment?
- F) What are the opinions of the hospital Infant Care Review Committee (ICRC), if available?
- G) What is the assessment of the DCFS nurse regarding whether treatment is medically indicated and whether there is credible evidence of medical neglect?
- H) What is the parent's knowledge and understanding of the treatment and the probable medical outcome?



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**Allegation of Harm #86**  
**NEGLECT BY AGENCY**

**a) Definition**

- 1) Neglect by Agency means children or adult residents are exposed to harm, risk of harm or a lack of other necessary care that includes, but is not limited to:
  - A) failure to provide adequate supervision;
  - B) failure to provide food, clothing and shelter; or
  - C) subjecting a child or adult resident to an environment that is injurious, as a result of the failure of an agency to implement practices that ensure the health, physical well-being, or welfare of the children or adult residents residing in the facility.
- 2) This neglect exists when there are conditions at the agency, such as inadequate staffing, lack of management training or lack of supervision of staff, that are to such an extent that staff culpability for abuse or neglect is mitigated by systemic problems. This neglect also includes instances in which an incident of abuse or neglect occurs against a child or adult resident and the perpetrator of such harm cannot be identified.

**b) Taking a Report**

A service recipient/youth has been exposed to harm or risk of harm due to the blatant disregard of caregiver responsibilities by the agency responsible for the youth's welfare.  
(NEGLECT)

**c) Investigating a Report**

- 1) Required Contacts:

**All contacts and attempted contacts must be documented in a contact note within 48 hours.**

- A) Interview the CEO/Executive Director of the agency.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator.

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Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

2) Required Activities:

**All investigative activities must be documented in a contact or case note within 48 hours.**

- A) Consultation with the Area Administrator must occur prior to closing the investigation.
- B) View pertinent video footage.
- C) Review of staffing logs.

3) Documentation Required

- A) There is evidence that documents that a youth has been exposed to harm or risk of harm.
- B) A waiver of any of the above requirements must be approved by the Child Protection Supervisor and may require approval by the Area Administrator. Details of the request and the Supervisor's decision must be documented in a supervisory note.

4) Assessment of Factors and Evidence to Determine a Finding

- A) Documentation of a detailed analysis of all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence has been reviewed and considered and any conflicting evidence has been resolved to the extent possible.
- B) The Child Protection Specialist and Child Protection Supervisor shall have a formal supervisory conference to assess all inculpatory and exculpatory evidence obtained during the course of the investigation in order to reach an investigative finding. The supervisory consultation must be documented in a supervisory note.