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## **Reports of Child Abuse or Neglect**

### **Sec. 17a-101 (e)-1. Scope of regulations**

The following regulations apply to Protective Services (i.e. services provided by the Department to families and children on behalf of children who are reported to the Department as being abused or neglected).

(Effective February 1, 1994)

### **Sec. 17a-101 (e)-2. Definitions**

(a) Department means Department of Children and Families.

(b) Commissioner means the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families.

(c) Reports of child abuse or neglect refers to reports alleging that a person under the age of eighteen (18) has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him by a person responsible for such child's or youth's health, welfare or care, or by a person given access to such child by such responsible person, other than by accidental means or has injuries which are at variance with the history given of them, or is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment, or cruel punishment, or has been abandoned or is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally, or is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to his well-being.

(d) Careline means the child abuse/neglect registry operated by the Department as provided for in 17a-101-1 to 17a-101-10 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(e) Protective Services means services provided after complaints of abuse or neglect, but in the absence of adjudication or assumption of jurisdiction by a court.

(f) A person responsible for such child's or youth's health, welfare or care means a child's or youth's parent, guardian, foster parent, an employee of a public or private residential home, agency or institution or other person legally responsible under general statute for the child's or youth's health, welfare or care in a residential setting, or any staff person providing out of home care including child day care, family day care, group day care, and center based day care.

(Effective February 1, 1994)

### **Sec. 17a-101 (e)-3. Reports of child abuse or neglect**

(a) Agencies or Institutions receiving reports of child abuse or neglect shall within twenty-four (24) hours transfer such information to the Department's Regional Office serving their locality or to the Child Abuse Careline operated by the Department.

(b) Such reports, as well as reports received from mandated and other reporters (as defined in 17a-101 (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes) of child abuse or neglect, shall be investigated immediately by the Department in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 (a) below.

(Effective February 1, 1994)

### **Sec. 17a-101 (e)-4. Investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect by the department**

(a) Upon receipt of the report, the Department shall make an initial assessment of the potential risk to the child(ren) and shall designate the report as:

(1) “Emergency” which will require same-day commencement of the investigation.

(2) “Severe” which will require commencement of the investigation within the following day.

(3) “Non-severe” which will require commencement of the investigation within three (3) working days.

(b) All investigations of reports will be completed within forty-five (45) calendar days.

(c) The investigation is considered complete when the Department staff have secured sufficient information through personal contact with the child, family and/or other collateral sources (as appropriate) to:

(1) Determine whether the report is founded or unfounded.

(2) Determine whether or not further Department actions are required to protect and promote the well-being of the child or to assist the parent(s) or other child caring person to more appropriately respond to and care for the child’s needs.

(d) Reports of child abuse or neglect determined to be unfounded will be expunged from the Child Abuse and Neglect Registry in accordance with 17a-101-1 to 17a-101-10 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(Effective February 1, 1994)

**Sec. 17a-101 (e)-5. Notification of law enforcement agencies—removal of child from the home—child to remain in own home**

If the investigation produces evidence that the child has been abused or neglected in the manner described in 17a-101 (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Department will take action deemed necessary to protect the child. Such action may include:

(1) Immediate notification to the appropriate law enforcement agencies (which shall consist of a verbal report confirmed in writing within twenty-four (24) hours by the Department form designated for this purpose) indicating the name and age of the child(ren), the name and address of the parent(s) or other child-caring person, a description of the incident(s), the name and address of the alleged offender or perpetrator and the action taken by the Department. This notification will be provided whenever one or more of the following situations are found to exist:

(A) The child has been so abused or neglected by parent(s) or other caretaker that death results.

(B) The child is suffering from a serious illness and must be removed immediately to insure his safety, and the parent(s) and/or other child-caring person will not cooperate.

(C) The child has incurred non-accidental, serious, physical injuries or serious injuries at variance with the history given of them such as significant burns, wounds from a stabbing or shooting, severe lacerations, ruptured viscera, broken bones or any series of injuries.

(D) Sexual assault of the child such as sexual intercourse or other intentional sexual contact with the child.

(E) Sexual exploitation of the child including, but not limited to, selling the child to others for sexual purposes and child pornography.

(F) The child left alone in a locked house or vehicle and is unable to get out.

(G) Demonstrated threats of violence or death to the child.

(2) Removal of the Child from the home.

(A) Removal of the child from the home with the written consent of the parent(s) or guardian.

(B) Removal of the child from the home after securing Court Order of Temporary Custody from the Superior Court–Juvenile Matters.

(C) Immediate removal of the child from the home pursuant to a 96-Hour Hold as provided for in 17a-101-11 to 17a-101-13 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(D) If temporary removal and placement of the child out of the home is determined to be essential, the Department will provide services to the family as may be necessary and seek to return the child to the family home as soon as this action is deemed appropriate based on an assessment of the child's needs and the parent's willingness and ability to meet those needs.

(3) Child to Remain in Own Home.

(A) In cases where the results of the investigation indicate that the child may be properly cared for in his own home, services shall be provided to the parents or other child-care persons to assist them to more adequately respond to and meet the needs of the child under the supervision of the Department, including but not limited to:

(i) Counseling services;

(ii) Referral to and utilization of other community resources such as social, health, education and employment services.

(B) If after providing these services for a reasonable period of time, the Department determines that the child can not be properly cared for in his own home, the Department may petition the Superior Court–Juvenile Matters for the child's commitment.

(Effective February 1, 1994)

**Sec. 17a-101 (e)-6. Termination of protective services**

(a) Protective Services will terminate when:

(1) The reports of child abuse or neglect are deemed to be unfounded or;

(2) The basis on which the reports of child abuse or neglect were reported to the Department is no longer present, or the family functioning and child-caring practices have improved to provide an adequate level of protection for the child.

(b) In cases where Petitions for Commitment are filed with the Superior Court–Juvenile Matters in accordance with the provisions of Section 46b-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes:

(1) If the Court orders the commitment of the child to the Commissioner, Protective Services will be terminated, but the child will continue to receive services from the Department as a committed child.

(2) If the court orders protective supervision, this supervision will be provided by the Department and will supercede the protective services previously provided.

(3) If the Court determines that the family situation is such that the child is not in need of protective supervision or commitment, Protective Services may be terminated.

(Effective February 1, 1994)