

CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION

Related Policy	18000
Person(s) Responsible	Employee
Related Form(s)	Suspected Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Reporting Form
Overview:	This procedure will provide the process staff will follow if they suspect a child has been abused, neglected or exploited.

ESD 105 staff are expected to immediately report every suspected case of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Reports are to be made to the following either in person or by phone:

1. the building principal or his/her designee in his/her absence in the district where the child is enrolled;
2. their ESD 105 supervisor and the ESD 105 Superintendent or designee;
3. and contact the nearest office of the Child Protective Services (CPS) of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). If this agency cannot be reached, the report shall be made to the police, sheriff, or prosecutor's office.

**Such contact must be made within forty-eight (48) hours.**

Details of the abuse, neglect, or exploitation and contacts shall be documented on the *ESD 105 Suspected Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Reporting Form*. The report should be retained by the ESD 105 employee in a secure and confidential manner for further reference if needed, and/or required by CPS or law enforcement.

For purpose of this procedure, child abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall mean:

1. Inflicting physical injury on a child by other than accidental means, causing death, disfigurement, skin bruising, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function.
2. Creating a substantial risk of physical harm to a child's bodily functioning.
3. Committing or allowing to be committed any sexual offense against a child as defined in the criminal code, or intentionally touching, either directly or through the clothing, the genitals, anus or breasts of a child for other than hygiene, child care or health care purposes.
4. Committing acts which are cruel or inhumane regardless of observable injury. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, instances of extreme discipline demonstrating a disregard of a child's pain or mental suffering.
5. Assaulting or criminally mistreating a child as defined by the criminal code.

6. Failing to provide food, shelter, clothing, supervision or health care necessary to a child's health or safety.
7. Engaging in actions or omissions resulting in injury to, or creating a substantial risk to the physical or mental health or development of a child.
8. Failing to take reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of the preceding actions.