

TAKOMA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT - GENERAL ORDERS



TITLE: Child Abuse/Neglect		Number: 802	
Effective Date: September 22, 2016		Review Date:	
New	X Amends	Rescinds	Cancels GO 802 dated April 23, 2002
Authority: Chief Alan Goldberg		CALEA STANDARDS	Total Pages 2

01 Purpose: To establish procedures pertaining to child abuse, sexual abuse, and child neglect.

02 Policy: To investigate promptly any reports or known instances of alleged child abuse or neglect, and to coordinate the investigations with Montgomery County Child Welfare Services

03 Child Welfare Services: Child Welfare Services is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. It provides assistance to families through consultation and referral to special services, which treat the causes leading to conditions of neglect or abuse.

04 Procedures - Child Physical/Sexual Abuse:

A. A police officer may immediately take into custody any child whose surroundings are deemed a danger to his/her health, morals and/or safety.

B. In all child abuse cases, the officer making initial contact will notify a detective. If there is any reason to suspect that a child is, or may be, in need of medical attention, the child will be taken to a medical facility for examination by a physician. When possible consultation with an investigator and/or Child Welfare should be done to determine which medical facility should be utilized. Certain facilities have staff especially trained to deal with children.

C. If it appears that immediate protection is necessary to ensure physical safety of the child, the officer will take custody of the child and contact the Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services, An investigator will also be notified.

D. The initial investigating officer will file a written report in all cases where child abuse is suspected.

E. A police report will be forwarded to Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services, and to the State's Attorney's office. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services, will decide a course to be followed for protection, treatment or services appropriate to the best interests of the child, including petitioning the Juvenile Court for Certification of the child as an abused or neglected child (when indicated), and the added protection which either Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services, or court commitment would provide.

05 Procedures - Child Neglect:

- A. When the initial contact indicates a case of child neglect, the officer will notify an investigator. The investigator will immediately notify Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services,
- B. In many cases, child neglect could also be deemed child abuse. Officers should investigate and report all instances where child abuse is suspected.
- C. Officers will cooperate with personnel from Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services, and/or other agencies involved in the investigation and subsequent proceedings.
- D. A written report is required in all cases of suspected child neglect. The report must be received by Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services, within 48 hours.

06 Reports:

- A. When preparing a report of child abuse or neglect, the following information shall be included:
 - 1. All circumstances that led the officer to believe that neglect and/or abuse exists, including:
 - * How the child has been harmed, and
 - * The existing conditions, which constitute or contribute to neglect.
 - 2. State the sources of information, such as: personal observation, statements made by the child, the parents and/or others with relevant information.
- B. Copies of subsequent investigative reports will be forwarded to the State's Attorney's office and Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services, for prosecution in child abuse cases, and for preparation of a petition in the Juvenile Court in cases of child neglect.
- C. The forwarding of initial and supplemental reports will, under routine circumstances, be the responsibility of the Administrative Services.

07 See Memorandum of Understanding for the Investigation and Prosecution of child abuse cases.