

JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Title:	Child Abuse Investigation	Chapter: 4.213
Date Issued:	October 12, 2011	
Revised:	May 25, 2021	
Reviewed:	May 25, 2021	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide employees with direction regarding reports and the investigation of child abuse and neglect.

II. POLICY

JPD recognizes that effective response to child maltreatment requires cooperation and coordinated efforts between social welfare and law enforcement. Once a child's safety is assured, our primary responsibility is to determine if a crime has been committed and if so, to identify the responsible person. All reports of child abuse and neglect will be thoroughly investigated in accordance with this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

Abandonment – Leaving a child alone or in the care of another under circumstances that demonstrate an intentional abdication of parental or guardian responsibility.

Child – A person under the age of 18 that is not emancipated.

Child Abuse – The physical injury or neglect, mental injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or maltreatment of a child by a person under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened.

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Child Advocacy Center (CAC) – Non-profit child-focused agency operated by Catholic Community Services that provides forensic interviews and medical examinations of minors believed to be victims of child abuse.

Child Neglect – A failure to act or to provide for a child's basic needs on the part of a parent, guardian, caregiver, or other responsible person in a position of trust and authority.

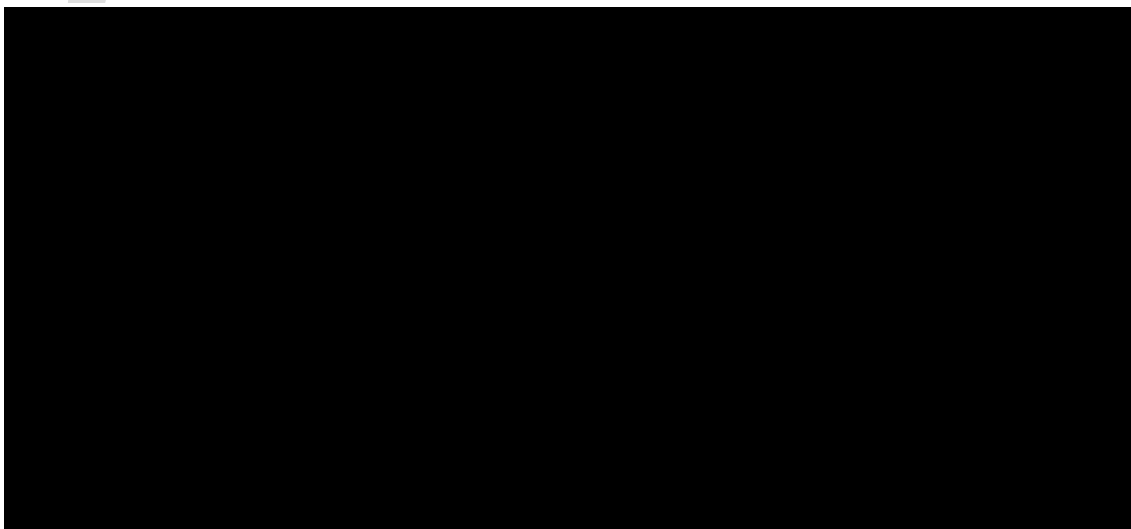
Child Sexual Abuse – The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in—or assist any other person to engage in—any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing child abuse images or child abuse material; or the sexual assault, statutory rape, act of incest, molestation, prostitution, or sexual exploitation of a child.

Office of Children Services (OCS) – The arm of the State Department of Health and Social Services that is tasked with ensuring the safety of children through interaction with law enforcement and the social service community.

Protective Services Report – A report generated and submitted by the Office of Children's Services alleging potential child abuse.

Report of Harm – A report to the Office of Children's Services alleging potential child abuse.

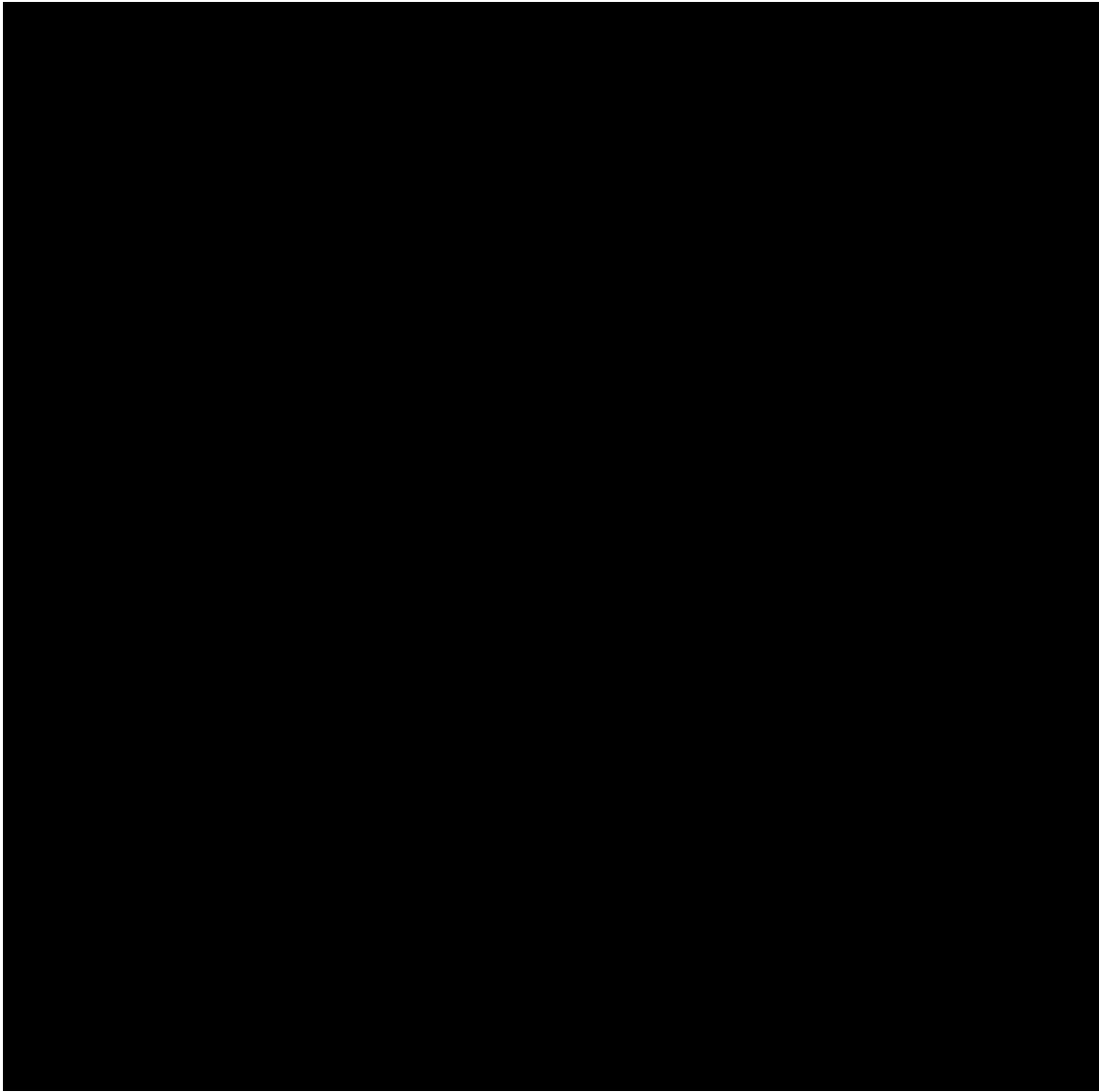
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B. Reporting of Child Abuse

1. The abuse of children is often reported by the school district or in a *Protective Services Report* from the Office of Children Services (OCS).
 - a. Protective Services Reports for incidents are that are not active should normally be assigned directly to CIU officers. Active, in progress, reports should be issued to Patrol.
2. When other cases are reported to the Communications Center, dispatchers will obtain the following information when it's reasonably possible:

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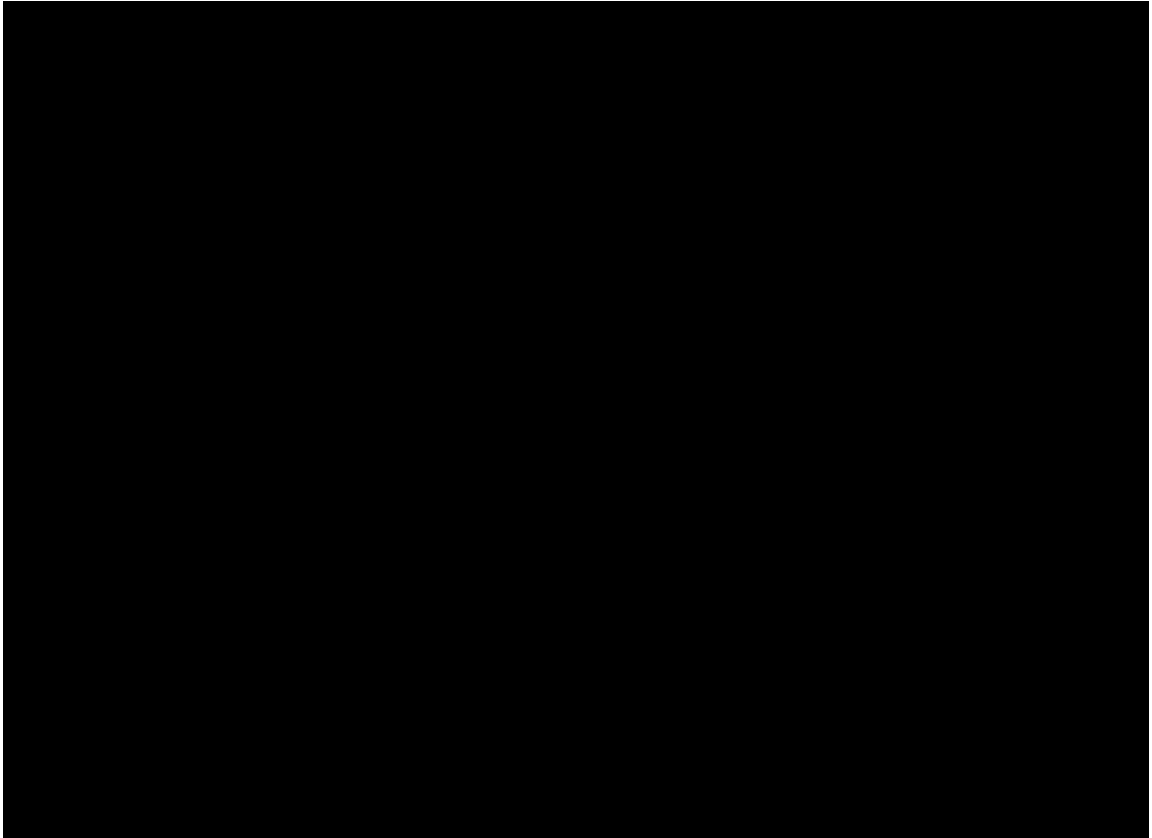
- a. child's name, age, and address;
 - b. present location of the child;
 - c. parents'/guardians' names and addresses;
 - d. complainant's name, address, and relationship to the child.
3. The officer taking the initial report should include:
 - a. the physical condition of the child;
 - b. a description of any abusive or neglectful behavior;
 - c. evidence of parental disabilities such as alcoholism, drug abuse, mental illness or other factors that demonstrate or suggest parental inability to care for the child;
 - d. description of suspicious injuries or conditions;
 - e. nature of any statements made by the child concerning maltreatment;
 - f. any evidence of parental indifference or inattention to the child's physical or emotional needs.
4. Advise the CAC, if not already notified.
5. In cases where protective custody is warranted and time permits, OCS shall be notified and a court order for protective custody shall be sought prior to the child's removal from the home.
6. Immediate action shall be taken by officers when
 - a. the complaint warrants arrest or criminal prosecution;
 - b. OCS personnel are not available and time is of the essence;
 - c. the child is in danger and child protective personnel cannot enter the home;
 - d. the suspect or alleged offender may flee;
 - e. police presence is required to maintain order or to protect the safety of child protection officers;
 - f. the child must be taken into protective custody against parental wishes.
7. If allegations of a crime of child abuse or neglect are reported directly to a Police Officer from the victim, or victims parent/guardian, or while in the performance of their appointed duties, a Police Officer has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of child abuse or neglect, they shall immediately report the harm to the Office of Children's Services.
 - a. A.S. 47.17.020 classifies Police Officers as mandatory reporters.

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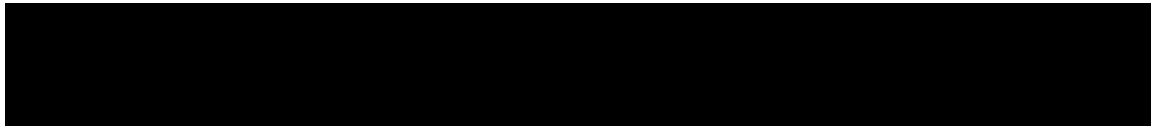


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b. This does not apply for incidents where JPD receives the report from the Office of Children's Services.



D. Background Investigation



2. Court protective orders with regard to the child or other members of the family, including those from other states where the child may have lived.
3. Reports from any previous law enforcement contacts, including from other jurisdictions where the child may have lived, attended school, and so forth.
4. Suspect's criminal record.

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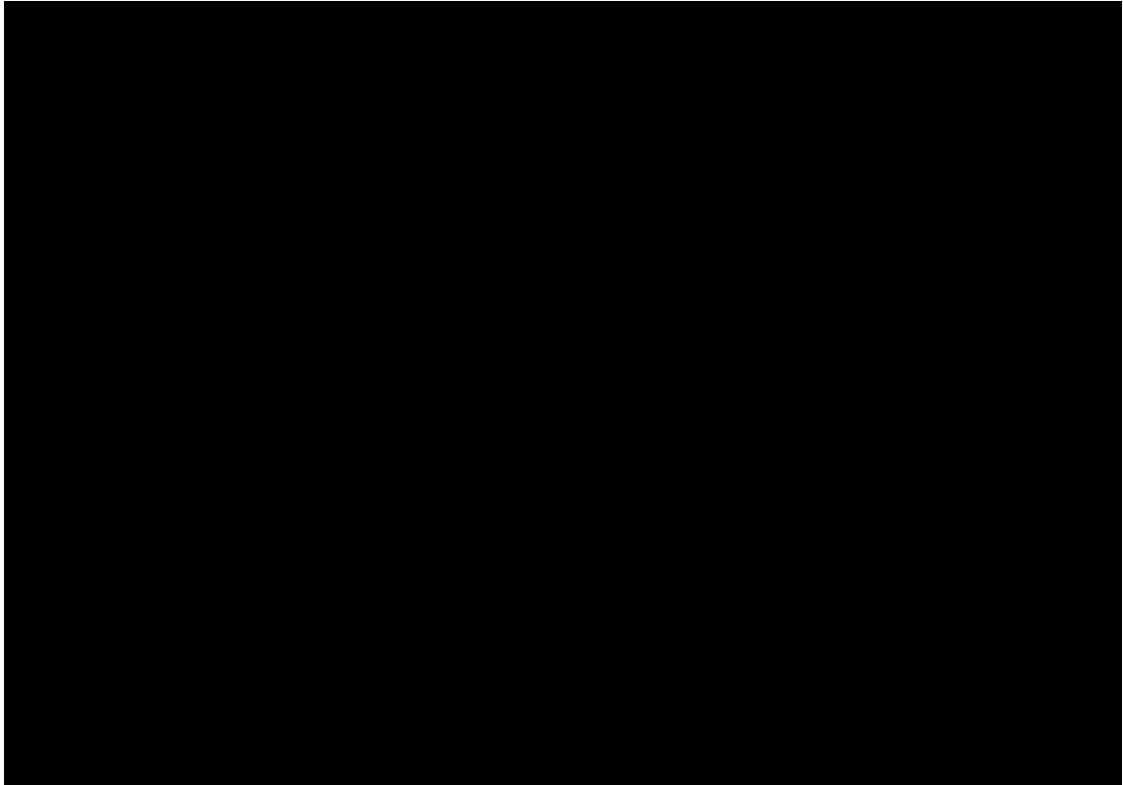
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5. Documentation (including x-rays and laboratory results) from medical personnel, including family practitioners, emergency room staff, and medical examiners spanning the child's entire life.
 - a. Investigators should be aware that certain types of injuries are characteristic of physical abuse, particularly when they do not correlate with parental explanations of how they occurred
6. Reports from social welfare officers who have come into contact with the child or his or her family members.
 - a. These agencies may provide information on family background, employment, economic and domestic stability, and previous contacts with child protective services agencies.
7. Records of the child's attendance, grades, demeanor, socialization, motivation, and perceived emotional stability from his or her schoolteachers including:
 - a. recurrent injuries or complaints of parental physical mistreatment;
 - b. marked changes in the child's behavior or level of achievement;
 - c. strong antagonism toward authority;
 - d. exaggerated reactions to being touched;
 - e. withdrawal from peers or assaultive or confrontational behavior;
 - f. delinquent acts, running away from home, or truancy;
 - g. refusal to dress for physical education or dressing inappropriately.
8. Information from neighbors or any other individuals who may have personal knowledge of the family situation.

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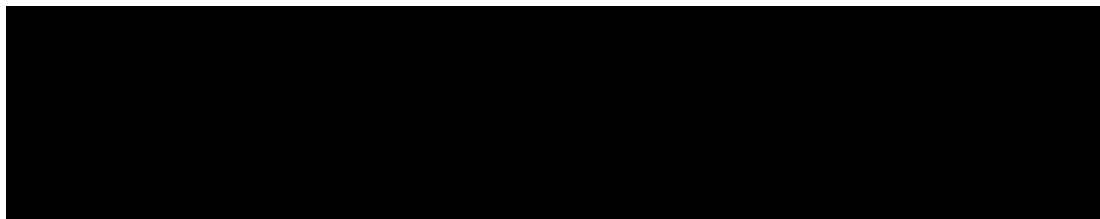


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F. Collect Physical Evidence

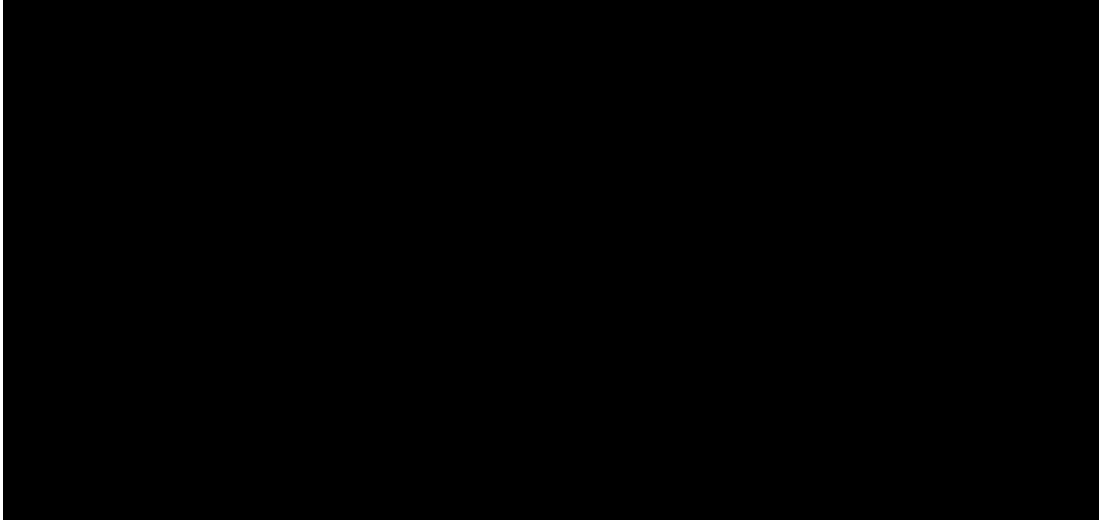
1. Complete a physical examination of the victim relative to the nature of the abuse at the CAC.
2. Ensure that photographs are taken of the victim's injuries and entered in JUDG.
 - a. Describe and diagram all injuries.
3. If appropriate, ensure that x-rays are taken, collected, and preserved.
4. Photograph home conditions bearing on the child's maltreatment.
 - a. Whenever possible, investigators should complete a videotaped walk-through of the scene.



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G. Training

1. Officers conducting child abuse investigations will receive training in the protocols of this policy.

Ed Mercer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Mercer".

Chief of Police