

44.6 Juvenile Victims

- A. Interviewing juvenile *victims* and witnesses *may* present special challenges, especially if the child is very young or has been traumatized. If information concerning the alleged crime is available from an independent adult source, the information *should* be sought from that adult, so that the child does not need to be interviewed on scene. If the juvenile *victim must* be questioned, *officers should* ask only basic questions to gather basic information; details *should* not be elicited. Questions *should* be limited to: what happened, who did it, where, when, and whom did you tell?
- B. If it appears that a crime has in fact been committed, no further questioning of the child *should* occur without the assistance of an *officer* or detective who has received training in interviewing child *victims*.
- C. DCS *shall* be notified in any incident in which the suspect resides in the home or has access to the child, if the *officer* reasonably believes that the child is not safe at the home, or if there is concern for any other child associated with the suspect. *Officers shall* include in their *DR* the date and time DCS was contacted and the name of the person at DCS who took the report.

