

Title 149, Series 8—Protocol for Law Enforcement Response to Child Abuse & Neglect

All Timelines

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| Mandated Reporting | Immediately, not more than 72 hours |
| Forensic Interview referral for scheduling | Not more than 72 hours, per needs of the case |
| Alleged Perpetrator interview | Immediately, not more than 72 hours |

Emergency Reports

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| The Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the report is about child abuse, have CPS accompany you • If the report is not about child abuse (e.g. domestic violence, drugs, etc.), look around to judge if kids may be in the home |
| Talking to kids on-scene | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct minimal facts interview, not full forensic interview • Schedule full forensic interview within 72 hours |
| Documentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note factors consistent with plausible child abuse/neglect • Good photo-documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ focused, with/without flash, with scale/ruler ○ identifying picture of child (face) ○ corroborating physical conditions |
| Emergency custody without court order | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted if child is abandoned or if child needs emergency medical treatment and parent/guardian refuses to permit or is unavailable to permit |
| Mandated Reporting | <p>Immediately, not more than 48 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-800-352-6513 |
| Child Death | <p>SUIDI Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.ndhealth.gov/NDME/Resources/SUIDI-Form.pdf |

Non-Emergency Reports

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| Before Forensic Interview | <p>Referral for forensic interview should occur within 72 hours or receipt of report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a CAC (where available) • Always by a trained forensic interviewer in a child-friendly, neutral location • Always recorded |
| During Forensic Interview | Officer should be present for live observation |
| After Forensic Interview | Collaborate with MDIT members regarding investigation and to ensure child gets connected with appropriate services |
| Alleged Perpetrator Interview | <p>As soon as possible, within 72 hours after the child's interview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video recording best, audio recording at minimum • Miranda warnings, as necessary and appropriate |
| Evidence Collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with Prosecutor • Check with MDIT members for evidence • Look for credible evidence—things that could corroborate child's statement |
| Charging/ Arrest/Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with Prosecutor • Be timely and thorough • Communicate with MDIT and the advocate that is working with the family |
| Internet & Technology-facilitated crimes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with a trained officer • If you need referral to trained officer, contact Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (304-293-6400) |