

Alleged Child Abuse and or Neglect

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to describe the Employer's framework for managing allegations of child abuse and/or neglect which are received.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The Police or Child, Youth and Family are the only two organisations that have the legal mandate to investigate allegations of abuse or neglect.
- 2.2 When dealing with allegations of suspected abuse and neglect, the welfare of the child is the first and paramount consideration.
- 2.3 The allegations will be taken seriously, when a child talks about abusive behaviour beyond the normal experience for their age, perpetrated on them by a trusted person, it is most likely they are telling the truth.
- 2.4 All information gathered about the allegations must be recorded on the file. Information needs to be factual, concise, timely (written as soon as possible after the disclosure), signed and dated
- 2.5 If possible do not work alone – once the initial disclosure has been made the Employee will consult with Supervisors and/or manager before commencing any further action.
- 2.6 It is the responsibility of the Supervisors and/or managers to decide what course of action is to be taken.
- 2.7 It is the Employees responsibility to report the information to the Manager and then to Child, Youth and Family or Police

3. RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1 Individual Employees are responsible for following the above principles and practices where appropriate.
- 3.3 The Supervisors and/or managers are responsible for ensuring that such allegations are dealt with in accordance with this policy and internal procedures.

4. COMPLIANCE

- 4.1 Any established breach of this policy may constitute serious misconduct and will be dealt with in accordance with the Employer's Policy on Discipline and Dismissal Procedures for Serious Misconduct.

5. REFERENCES

- 5.1.CYF Standards for Approval

Responsibility for Procedure:	Manager
Approving Authority:	Manager
Reference:	Service