

## **BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

#### **INVESTIGATION OF CHILD PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE**

Reviewed by: Sergeant Todd McLusky	Effective Date: September 30, 2004
Authorized by: Chief Daniel Donath	Revision Date: December 15, 2019

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure is to provide officers with guidelines for investigating reported cases of child physical and sexual abuse. Further, it is intended to establish consistency between organizations in how these cases are investigated.

#### **PROCEDURE**

Officers will adhere to the guidelines as set forth in “Guidelines for the Investigation of Child Physical and Sexual Abuse,” issued by the McLean County Children’s Advocacy Center. These interviews of child victims will be done, not by patrol officers, but by child forensic interviewers.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

The McLean County Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) is responsible for monitoring all cases of sexual abuse and serious physical abuse (fractured bones, cuts, welts, bruises, burns) of victims under 18 years of age, those death review cases which may be related to abuse or neglect of victims who reside in McLean County, and cases involving incidents that occurred in McLean County.

#### **ACCESS PROCEDURE**

When a sexual abuse or serious physical abuse allegation is reported to DCFS, the investigator will notify BPD and the CAC to coordinate the child interview. When a sexual abuse or serious physical abuse report regarding a relative or caretaker is made to a Bloomington police officer, the officer will relay the information to the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-252-2873). It is the responsibility of the DCFS investigator or BPD officer to contact the CAC to coordinate the interview of the child.

If a report is made without the involvement of DCFS, officers should contact the CAC for interview setup during normal office hours (08:00 to 16:30 Monday through Friday) at (309) 888-5656. In the event of an after-hours emergency, officers should call (309) 706-9988 or (309) 706-9990.

**In order to insure the integrity of the interview, officers should refrain from gathering details from the victim until the coordinated interview is scheduled.**

In the unlikely event that an interview is held outside the CAC, it is the responsibility of either DCFS or officers to notify the CAC with information pertinent to the case so that a current data collection system can be maintained.

### **INTERVIEW**

No interview with the child should be conducted without the joint consultation of the Multi-Disciplinary Team, which consists of Law Enforcement, DCFS, State's Attorney's Office and CAC personnel. The only exception would be when the safety of the child is at risk. Interviews of alleged victims should be conducted at the CAC located at 200 W. Front St. Suite 500B.

**Note:** There are further provisions of the protocol that refer to other aspects of the investigation. The previous paragraphs are intended as a guideline for Patrol Officers and CSO's during initial contact with alleged victims.