



### INTERVENTION SERVICES

#### Background

Staff members of the Division shall cooperate with personnel from the Child and Family Services Authority and Police Services in the investigation of suspected cases of children in need of protective services.

Because of the trust relationships cultivated between teachers and students, school personnel may become aware of suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. The Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act requires "any person who has reasonable or probable grounds to believe that a child is in need of protective services" to report forthwith the matter to appropriate authorities. All school personnel are to report all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect as specified in the Act.

The investigation of child protection complaints is the responsibility of child welfare workers from the local Child and Family Services Authority, who may, where appropriate, be assisted by Police Services.

Under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. C-12, caseworkers have the same rights as parents for those children who are temporary or permanent wards of the government (Child and Family Services Authority). Furthermore, child welfare workers and police officers have the authority to apprehend a child where there is sufficient reason to believe that the child is in need of protective services. In such cases, the Child and Family Services Authority immediately assumes guardianship and other parental rights for the child (later confirmed or altered in Family Court).

Child welfare workers are authorized to apprehend a child from the school premises during the course of an investigation.

#### Procedures

1. A child is in need of protective services if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the survival, security or development of the child is endangered because of any of the following:
  - 1.1 the child has been abandoned or lost;
  - 1.2 the guardian of the child is dead and the child has no other guardian;
  - 1.3 the child is neglected by the guardian;
  - 1.4 the child has been or there is substantial risk that the child will be physically injured or sexually abused by the guardian of the child;
  - 1.5 the guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from physical injury or sexual abuse;



- 1.6 the child has been emotionally injured by the guardian of the child;
  - 1.7 the guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from emotional injury;
  - 1.8 the guardian of the child has subjected the child to or is unable or unwilling to protect the child from cruel and unusual treatment or punishment;
  - 1.9 the guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to provide the child with the necessities of life;
  - 1.10 the guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to obtain for the child, or to permit the child to receive, essential medical, surgical or other remedial treatment that is necessary for the health or well-being of the child;
  - 1.11 the guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to provide the child with adequate care or supervision;
  - 1.12 a child is emotionally injured if there is impairment of the child's mental or emotional functioning or development; or
  - 1.13 if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the emotional injury is the result of rejection, emotional, social, cognitive or physiological neglect, deprivation of affection or cognitive stimulation, exposure to family violence or severe domestic disharmony, inappropriate criticism, threats, humiliation, accusations or expectations of or toward the child,
2. When a staff member suspects that a child has been abused, the staff member is to document the reasons for concern and any relevant statements made by the child.
  3. The staff member is to then contact Alberta Child and Family Services. Documentation is to be made at this time of:
    - 3.1 The name of the person making the call.
    - 3.2 The name of the intake worker receiving the call.
    - 3.3 The time and date the call was made.
    - 3.4 The action proposed by Alberta Child and Family Services.
  4. The staff member is to then immediately inform the Principal. No investigation is to be carried out by school personnel at this or any other time.
  5. The Principal or designate is to follow up on the case by contacting Alberta Child and Family Services to obtain relevant information on the disposition of the case.



6. At the end of the investigation and disposition of the case the staff member, counsellor and Principal are to meet to discuss the steps they could take to assist the child.
7. A caseworker or police officer who finds it necessary to interview a student during school hours will report to the office of the Principal. The caseworker or police officer is to be asked to:
  - 7.1 Present identification;
  - 7.2 Provide an explanation as to the nature of the investigation being conducted; and
  - 7.3 State reasons for wanting to conduct the interview in the school.
8. The Principal must make and keep a record (photocopy and/or written notes) of the identification documents of the police officer and/or the caseworker.
9. Interviews may be permitted on the school premises for any investigation involving a suspected case of a child being in need of intervention.
10. The caseworker or police officer has the responsibility to involve/inform parents of any investigation involving students under 18 years of age. The Principal must receive assurance that the parent has been/will be informed. The Principal and caseworker or police officer will discuss when the caseworker or police officer will contact the parents.
11. If the Principal is contacted by parents enquiring about a student who has not returned home, and the student has been apprehended or delayed at school because of an investigation, the Principal shall inform the parent of that fact and provide the investigator's name and telephone number. Parents are to be referred to the caseworker for further details.
12. All those involved in a child intervention investigation are required by law to keep details about the investigation confidential in accordance with FOIP, the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act, and the Education Act.
13. The Principal may explore with the caseworker or police officer whether it is in the child's best interests that a familiar trusted staff member sit in on the interview as a silent observer. If the caseworker or police officer agrees, the Principal will consult the student to determine whether a trusted staff member will sit in on the interview.
14. The Principal will bring the student to a private office where the interview will take place.
15. In the event of disagreement between the Principal and authorities under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act over interviewing students on school premises, the Principal shall consult with the Superintendent.



Reference: Section 11, 33, 52, 53, 56, 196, 197, 222 Education Act  
Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act  
Criminal Justice Act  
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act