

Sixth District Department of Correctional Services POLICY	Issue Date  02/21/96	Effective Date  04/01/16	Policy Number  136-16
Subject <b>MANDATORY REPORTING/ CHILD/DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE</b>		Review Month  March	Author  0402 (TRO)
Rescinds  136-99A	References Code of Iowa, Chapters 232.69, 235B.1		

**POLICY:**

To enhance public safety, all staff having peace officer status under the Code of Iowa, Chapter 232.69 and 235B.1, are required to report any incident of known or alleged child or dependent adult abuse. Staff not included in this Chapter but that have contact with situations that could include incidents of known or alleged child or dependent adult abuse are required to follow this policy.

**DEFINITION:**

1. Child - Any person under the age of eighteen (18) years.
2. Dependent Adult – A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who is unable to protect the person’s own interests or unable to adequately perform or obtain services necessary to meet essential human needs, as a result of physical or mental condition which requires assistance from another.
3. Abuse - Harm or threatened harm occurring through:
  - A. Any non-accidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given it, suffered by a child as the result of the acts of omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child or dependent adult.
  - B. The commission of any sexual abuse with or to a child or dependent adult, as a result of the acts of omissions of the person responsible for the care of the child or dependent adult.
  - C. The failure on the part of a person responsible for the care of a child or dependent adult to provide for the adequate food, shelter, clothing or other care necessary for the child's or dependent adult’s health and welfare when financially able to do so or when offered financial or other reasonable means to do so.
  - D. Caretaker – A related or non-related person who has the responsibility for the protection, care, or custody of the dependent adult as a result of assuming the responsibility voluntarily, by contract, through employment, or by order of the Court.

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**PROCEDURE:**

1. While conducting business as an employee of the District, staff reports any suspected child or dependent adult abuse to the District Director and the Department of Human Services both orally and in writing.
  - A. The oral report is made immediately by telephone or in person after becoming aware of suspected abuse. If there is reason to believe that the immediate safety of the child or dependent adult is threatened, law enforcement is also contacted.
  - B. The written report is made to the District Director and the Department of Human Services within forty-eight (48) hours after the oral report, using Suspected Child or Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting Form (136A). Failure to comply with the above procedures can result in discipline up to and including discharge.
2. Staff complete two (2) hours of training related to the identification and reporting of child or dependent adult abuse within six (6) months of initial employment. Thereafter, staff complete at least two (2) hours of training related to the identification and reporting of child or dependent adult abuse every five (5) years.
3. Employees report any suspected child or dependent adult abuse by another staff member to their Supervisor. Allegations are handled by administrative investigation.

BY ORDER OF:

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Bruce Vander Sanden, Director