

A. PURPOSE. To ensure a coordinated response to cases of serious child abuse between the Grand Rapids Police Department, Children's Protective Services, and the Kent County Prosecutor's Office

B. GOALS

1. To ensure child abuse cases are properly and effectively investigated and prosecuted.
2. To reduce trauma and provide protection and continuing support for victims of abuse and their family.
3. To gain improved cooperation among professionals and agencies by developing a common goal of better management of child abuse cases.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. *Serious Child Abuse*. Abuse or neglect resulting in severe physical injury to a child requiring medical treatment or hospitalization.
2. *Severe Physical Injury*. Brain damage, skull or bone fracture, subdural hemorrhage or hematoma, dislocation, sprains, internal injuries, poisoning, burns, scalds, severe cuts, or any other physical injury that seriously impairs the health or physical well-being of a child.

D. GENERAL PROCEDURE

1. Police Officers responding to an incident of serious child abuse meeting the criteria listed in section C shall:
  - a. Notify a supervisor.
  - b. Conduct a preliminary investigation as outlined in MOP 8-2, *Preliminary Investigations*.
  - c. Arrange for the call out of the Department of Human Services' Protective Services, requesting their response to all reported serious child abuse incidents that occurred in a family setting.
2. Call Out of Investigative Personnel
  - a. Officers shall notify the Watch Commander of all incidents of serious child abuse.

- b. The Watch Commander will promptly notify the Commander of Investigations, Detective Unit Commander, or the Family Services Team Sergeant of any incident meeting the criteria listed in section C.
- c. Detective Unit Personnel shall determine the response to the above investigations. They will complete a thorough investigation and when necessary coordinate investigation with Children's Protective Services.
  - (1) Every effort shall be made to conduct joint interviews of children with Children's Protective Services.
  - (2) Investigators will consult with the Prosecutor's Office for legal counsel on issues relative to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse.
3. In any case where abuse or neglect is the suspected cause of a child's death, immediately have Children's Protective Services contacted to ensure the protection of any surviving siblings.
4. When investigating incidents of child abuse or neglect that require the removal of children from the home, consult with Children's Protective Services when practical. CPS will assist officers in the decision to remove the children and finding temporary placement for them.

#### E. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

1. As a Law Enforcement Officer, you are a Mandatory Reporter of **ANY** suspected child abuse, child sexual abuse, or neglect of a child under 18 years of age, and you shall contact the Department of Human Services at 1-855-444-3911.
2. Persons who report suspected child sexual abuse, child abuse, or child neglect to the Department of Human Services are entitled to complete confidentiality.
3. The identity of the referent is to be released only by the Department of Human Services to law enforcement personnel and the office of the Prosecuting Attorney.
4. The same legal constraints apply to law enforcement. Grand Rapids Police Department employees are not permitted to disclose the identity of the referent to anyone other than the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.