

INTERNAL OPERATING POLICY: CHILD ABUSE REPORTING
Created: July 1, 2013

Child Abuse Reporting Guidelines for Monroe County Health Department

Purpose: To ensure that FDOH – Monroe employees understand that they are mandated to report child abuse to the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2863 (1-800-96-ABUSE), that this requirement includes reporting childhood sexual abuse, that there are limited exceptions to the duty to report, that there are penalties for failure to report, and that there is immunity from civil or criminal liability for reporting in good faith any instance of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

Policy: Any FDOH – Monroe employee, contractor, or volunteer who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused, abandoned, or neglected, or is the victim of childhood sexual abuse, or is the victim of a known or suspected juvenile sex offender, shall report this knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline.

If the report is of an instance of known or suspected child abuse solely under s. 827.04(3), the reporting provisions of this subsection do not apply to health care professionals or other persons who provide medical or counseling services to pregnant children when such reporting would interfere with the provision of medical services.
39.201(2)(e)

The attached chart provides specific guidance for reporting in cases involving sexually active children, and is incorporated by reference into this Operating Policy.

Age of Client	Sex activity w/ person of familial or custodial authority (i.e. parent/teacher/law officer)	Sex activity w/ adult that is non-consensual, sex exploit, prostitution, or sex performance by/on child	Sex activity w/ another child	Sex activity w/ adult 18 - 23 yo	Sex activity w/ adult over 24 yo
Under 12 yo	Report	Report	Report	Report	Report
12 - 15 yo	Report	Report	Report IF sex activity occurred w/o consent or with coercion	Report	Report
16 - 17 yo	Report	Report	Report IF sex activity occurred w/o consent or with coercion	Report IF sex activity caused apparent physical, emotional, or mental injury	Report

It is a crime to make false reports of child abuse when you know them to be false. It is also a crime to fail to report child abuse, or to prevent another person from reporting child abuse. Where an FDOH – Monroe employee, contractor, or volunteer makes a report of child abuse in good faith to the Florida Abuse Hotline or a law enforcement agency, is immune from civil or criminal liability arising from that report.

Scope: All FDOH – Monroe employees, contractors, and volunteers.

Authority:

Florida Statute Section 39.01 (2), (5), (7), (12), (32), (42), (56), and (67); 39.201 (1)(b), (1) (c), and (2)(e); 39.203 (1)(a); and 39.205. (October 2012)



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