

- ◆ Other facts that will help determine if the child has been maltreated; and
- ◆ SIU may also request the removal of the child from the home.

The Division shall videotape all interviews of the minor alleged victim(s) and may tape record the interview if videotaping is not possible. (per RSA 169- C:38 V)

DETERMINATION

The child's CPSW and/or JPPO, legal guardian and the foster care licensing worker must be provided information regarding the investigation within 10 days of its completion.

DCYF SIU will send letters notifying them:

- ◆ Whether or not the child has been abused or neglected;
- ◆ Specific reasons for the finding; and
- ◆ Rights to information about themselves in the report.

DCYF SIU must notify:

In all cases regardless of the determination the licensing worker, CPSW and/or JPPO and the person allegedly responsible for the abuse or neglect must be notified.

DCYF SIU tells the person alleged to have caused the abuse or neglect:

- ◆ Whether or not the child has been maltreated;
- ◆ Specific reasons for the finding;
- ◆ Their rights to the information; and
- ◆ Their rights to appeal.

CONCLUSION

After the investigation, DCYF SIU may request that the foster care licensing worker follow-up with the foster parents. In some cases they may request corrective action be taken.

DCYF is required to notify the professional reporter of the results of the investigation, unless it would not be in the child's best interest.

For more information on the Child Protection Laws see RSA 169-C.

For more information, contact the Division for Children, Youth and Families, Special Investigations Unit at 1-800-852-3345 ext.4455.



Investigating Child Abuse or Neglect in Foster Homes



Special Investigations Unit
Division for Children, Youth and Families
NH Department of Health and Human Services
129 Pleasant St
Concord, NH 03301

The Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has received a report alleging that a child has been abused or neglected in a foster home. You are receiving this brochure because you are either the person who reported the maltreatment, the person alleged to have caused the harm, or someone who may have information about the report. State law (RSA 169-C) requires that DCYF conduct an investigation and take the appropriate action for the protection of children. This brochure explains the process that they Special Investigations Unit (SIU) of DCYF follows.

NOTIFICATION OF THE REPORT

At the time the report is received the assigned SIU Child Protective Service Worker (CPSW) contacts the district office that oversees the foster home. If the foster home is licensed by a child placing agency, that agency is also contacted. The purpose of this contact is to be sure the licensing worker and the worker for the children in the home know that a report has been made and that SIU will conduct the investigation. SIU will explain the alleged abuse or neglect and the action being taken to the assigned worker. The CPSW and/or JPPO will notify the parents of the children involved.

The nature of the allegations will determine whether or not the foster parent is contacted prior to interviewing the child alleged to

have been harmed or at risk. Safety for the child is the first priority.

COORDINATE THE INVESTIGATION

The Special Investigations Unit works with local law enforcement officials as well as the licensing authority to determine if the child has been abused and/or neglected and if the harm was caused by something the foster parent did or failed to do. SIU may also inform the licensing worker that no further placements can be made in the foster home until the conclusion of the investigation.

If a report involves issues other than child abuse or neglect, DCYF will forward the information to the appropriate agency for possible investigation of licensing violations.

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

DCYF SIU may interview:

- ◆ Other children who are or have been in foster home;
- ◆ Health Professionals; and
- ◆ Any person who may have been in the foster home who may know of the



alleged abuse or neglect.

DCYF SIU will Interview:

- ◆ All alleged child victims in the foster home;
- ◆ Alleged person responsible; and
- ◆ Foster parent(s), caretakers, and all other household members.

DCYF SIU will collect information on:

- ◆ Prior reports of abuse or neglect;
- ◆ The child's age, developmental abilities and gender;
- ◆ The people who reported the alleged abuse or neglect, their relationship to the child and the person alleged to have caused the harm and how they know about the alleged abuse or neglect;
- ◆ The person alleged to have caused the harm, including age, prior reports of abuse or neglect, and criminal charges and convictions;
- ◆ Other facts that will help determine if the child has been maltreated; and
- ◆ The trainings that the foster parent(s) have received.

DCYF SIU may require:

- ◆ Medical records and/or a medical exam of the child;