

such security for the child appearance as the court may reasonably require, unless his placement in detention or shelter care is permitted and appears required by § 3-815, or

2. Deliver the child to the court or place of detention or shelter care designated by the court.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Child-** is defined as any individual under the age of 18 years.
- B. **Abuse-** is defined as the sustaining of physical or mental injury by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by any household or family member under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed.
- C. **Family Member-** is defined as a relative of a child by blood, adoption, or marriage.
- D. **Household Member-** is defined as a person who lives with or is a regular presence in a home of a child at the time of the alleged abuse.
- E. **Sexual Abuse -** is defined as any act that involves sexual molestation or exploitation of a child by a parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by any household or family member. Sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to incest, rape, a sexual offense in any degree, sodomy, and/or unnatural or perverted sexual practices.
- F. **Neglect** – is defined as the failure to give proper care and attention under circumstances that a child's health and/or welfare are significantly harmed or the child is placed at risk of significant harm.
- G. **Unattended Child-** is defined in the Family Law Article (5-801). An unattended child is a child **under the age of 8** who has been locked or confined in a dwelling, building, enclosure, or motor vehicle while the person charged with the care of the child is out of sight, unless the person charged with the care provides a "reliable" person at least 13 years of age to remain with the child for protection.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION

A. **Physical Child Abuse**

Members will:

1. Immediately assess the extent of the injuries and determine whether the child needs immediate medical attention. Many times internal injuries or broken bones could be involved which would not be recognized by non-medical personnel.
2. Conduct an interview of the child to determine the basic information of the abuse.
3. Notify the Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Division, at their 24-hour answering service located in the General Orders Phone Numbers WIP.xlsx, unless relieved of this responsibility by an investigator from MCP Special Victims Investigations Division.
4. Take photographs of all injuries.
5. Notify MCP Special Victims Investigations Division of all child abuse cases. ***Take the child into protective custody if necessary, as determined by the MCP SVID investigator.***
6. Document the incident on an event report and route a copy via E-Justice to MCP Special Victims Investigations Division.

B. Child Sexual Abuse

1. A member responding to a child sexual abuse call will:
Conduct a cursory interview of the victim to obtain basic information for the event report. MCP Special Victims Investigations Division will be contacted and may respond after determining:
 - Whether the abuse occurred within the past 72 hours;
 - If physical evidence is to be collected; and
 - Whether the suspect still has access to the victim.
2. **Take the child into protective custody, if necessary, as determined by the MCP SVID investigator.**
3. Notify the Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Division, at their 24-hour answering service located in the General Orders Phone Numbers WIP.xlsx, unless relieved of this responsibility by an investigator from MCP Special Victims Investigations Division.
4. Route a copy of the police report via E-Justice to SVID at the number listed for them in the General Orders Phone Number WIP

xlsx. MCP SVID and the Child Welfare Division will conduct a joint investigation.

C. **Child Neglect**

A member responding to a neglect case will:

1. Notify the Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Division, at their 24- hour answering service located in the General Orders Phone Numbers WIP.xlsx, unless relieved of this responsibility by an investigator from MCP Special Victims Investigations Division.
2. Remain at scene and cooperate with the Child Welfare Division in an attempt to locate a parent and/or relative.
3. In all cases of child neglect, the member must route a copy of the police report via E-Justice to SVID at the number listed for them in the General Orders Phone Number WIP.xlsx.
4. Shelter care may be a last resort and will be arranged for by the Child Welfare Division. **Members will take the child into protective custody, if requested by the Child Welfare Division.**

V. **REPORTS**

- A. The following information will be indicated in the narrative of any report of child abuse or neglect:
- The circumstances that led the member to believe that neglect and/or abuse exists. Relate how the child has been harmed, or state what conditions exist to constitute neglect;
 - State the source of the information, such as personal observations, statements made by the child, parent, or persons outside the immediate family having relevant information; and
 - That the member will be routing a copy of the report to SVID and the Department of Health Services, Child Welfare Division.