

Child Abuse & Neglect Policy

ACF-IM-HS-15-04 Performance Standards

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-15-04>

Child Abuse and Neglect Section 32A-4-3(F)

<https://law.justia.com/codes/new-mexico/2020/chapter-32a/article-4/section-32a-4-3/>

32A-4-2. Definitions.

<https://law.justia.com/codes/new-mexico/2018/chapter-32a/article-4/section-32a-4-2/>

<https://cyfd.org/child-abuse-neglect>

All Head Start and Early Head Start staff persons are "mandated reporters." As mandated reporters, staff members working for Head Start and Early Head Start programs are legally obligated to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate state child protection agency. Any employee who is the subject of a reported case of abuse or neglect must be removed from contact with children during the state investigation and until the charge is fully resolved.

A person who violates the provisions of Subsection A of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978.

Policy & Procedures

1. Head Start programs must first call the state's designated reporting hotline. **Report suspected child abuse or neglect by calling #SAFE (#7233) from a cell phone or 1-855-333-SAFE**
2. Contact CYFD, Child Care Licensing Regional Office at [575-373-6609](tel:575-373-6609)
3. Contact Program Director and Education Specialist.

Individuals reporting suspected child abuse or neglect will be asked for specific information, such as:

1. The child's name and location
2. The name and relationship (if known) of the person you believe may have abused or is abusing the child
3. What you have seen or heard regarding the abuse or neglect
4. The names of any other people who might know about the abuse
5. Your name and phone number (voluntary)

Reporting Clarification

1. Staff will not alert or inform family or parents of CYFD report or that child has been interviewed.
2. Staff will not photograph injuries on child. Injuries will be described and documented on reporting form.
3. Law Enforcement and Children, Youth and Families Department will investigators are legally permitted to interview the child, in private, at the center and review the child's center file.
4. Staff will obtain a copy of the investigators picture identification card/badge and contact numbers.

Staff will document event in Child Plus. Event will be documented in Family Service Events