



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT LE-027

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Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board that the requirements set out in this document shall form part of the Board Policies and the Chief of Police is hereby directed to comply with these requirements in his/her administration and operation of the Peel Regional Police.

1. Subject

The guiding principles under which the Chief of Police is to establish procedures and processes relating to the undertaking and managing of investigations into child abuse and neglect.

2. Specific Definitions

“child” - as defined in the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, means a person younger than eighteen (18);

“child abuse” - Refers to categories of child protection and abuse as follows:

- (i) “physical abuse” – means non-accidental use of physical force, resulting in physical injury or death to a child;
- (ii) “sexual abuse” – refers to an assault, touching, or invitation to touching, in circumstances which violate the sexual integrity of a child; and
- (iii) “neglect” – a situation or condition where there is inadequate care and nurturance of a child which could seriously impair the child’s emotional or physical health and development, and/or abandonment;

“major case” - means:

- (i) homicides as defined in subsection 222(4), Criminal Code of Canada, and attempts;
- (ii) sexual assaults, and all attempts; (includes sexual interference, sexual exploitation and invitation to sexual touching;
- (iii) occurrences involving non-familial abductions, and attempts;
- (iv) missing person occurrences, where circumstances indicate a strong possibility of foul play;
- (v) occurrences suspected to be homicides involving found human remains;
- (vi) criminal harassment cases in which the offender is not known to the victim; and
- (vii) any other case designated as a major case by the Major Case Management Executive Board;

3. Policy Requirements

It is the policy of the Board with respect to the undertaking and managing of investigations into child abuse and neglect, the Chief of Police will:

- (a) ensure complete compliance with legislative and constitutional requirements, and recognized legal principles;
- (b) ensure that members act with full respect for human dignity and according to professional standards of skill, integrity and accountability;
- (c) maintain both officer and public safety as a priority;
- (d) ensure that members involved in investigations into child abuse and neglect have the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform this function;
- (e) ensure provisions for victim assistance;
- (f) ensure that procedures and policies be developed and maintained for undertaking and managing child abuse and neglect investigations;
- (g) ensure a child abuse protocol is developed between the police service and the local Children's Aid Society with respect to investigations into complaints of child abuse and neglect, and the sudden unexpected death of any child;
- (h) ensure that where the alleged child abuse falls within the definition of a major case, the occurrence is investigated in compliance with the procedures set out in the *Ontario Major Case Management Manual*;
- (i) regularly review procedures on investigations into child abuse and neglect to remain current with case law, inquests, inquiry findings, and amendments to related legislation; and
- (j) conduct ongoing statistical analysis, qualitative and quantitative review of all child abuse and neglect investigations to ensure compliance with Board policy and legislative requirements.

4. Reporting

The Chief of Police will report annually, the number of child abuse investigations, Children's Aid Society Referrals, the effectiveness of existing protocols, community partnerships, training and education.

The Chief of Police will also report on an exception basis. This applies to those circumstances where an investigation into child abuse and/or neglect has resulted in an "exceptional" circumstance, or a circumstance which may be detrimental to the police service; and/or has significant issues of potential liability to the Board and/or the police service.

5. Authority/Legislative Reference

Ontario Regulation 03/99, Section 12(1)(a) and 29
Child, Youth and Family Services Act
Ontario Major Case Management Manual
Board Minute #191/00
Board Minute #19/09
Board Minute #44 /14

6. Linkage to Appropriate Police Service Procedure/Directive

- I-B-714(F) Child Abuse Investigations
- I-B-720(F) Sudden Death Investigations
- I-B-713(F) Domestic/Family Disputes
- I-B-719(F) Sex Offence Investigations