

Child Abuse Investigations

Definition:

Child Abuse - Serious physical or mental injury which is not explained by the available medical history as being accidental; sexual abuse or sexual exploitations; or serious physical neglect of a child if the injury, abuse or neglect of a child has been caused by the acts or omissions of the child's parent, by a person responsible for the child's welfare, by an individual residing in the same home as the child or by a paramour of the child's parent.

In the City the Criminal Investigation Division, Juvenile Offender Section, will have primary responsibility and authority for investigation and examination of abuse scenes when a death occurs.

Investigative Process; Not Necessarily in Order:

Upon receipt of a child abuse allegation supervision is notified immediately.

Barring exigent circumstance, the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office is notified before charges are brought.

Crime scene is held for processing by Forensics Unit.

The initial responding Officer will gather basic information from and about the victim. At no time will a child be "Interviewed" by the Officer. Sometimes basic "Minimal Fact" information can be obtained without talking to the victim (parents, grandparents, witnesses).

Dauphin County Children and Youth as well as Childline are notified.

The assigned Detective will coordinate with Dauphin County Children and Youth to set up an interview of the victim, and any juvenile witnesses at the Children's Resource Center. Detectives and Caseworkers attend these interviews.

If a child is taken into Police protective custody they are immediately delivered to a Children and Youth Caseworker or to the hospital for medical treatment.

Witnesses and all parties involved, however remote, are interviewed.

Facts of the case are reviewed with the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office throughout the investigation, and before charges are brought.

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THESE CASES CAN TAKE TIME

When to Call?

Any time you suspect a child is being physically, sexually, or mentally abused or neglected.
Period!!!!!!! Do not think you're bothering us or that your call will go unheeded.

Who to Call?

Dauphin County Dispatch: 717-558-6900

Childline: 1-800-932-0313