

## Policy: Reporting Abuse

*PDHC follows the laws of the state of Ohio regarding the reporting of child abuse. Professionals that are mandated by law to report abuse and neglect include, but are not limited to: nurses, physicians, teachers, and social workers. Reporting is mandated for professionals regardless of whether they are, or are not working in a volunteer capacity.*

*PDHC follows mandated reporting guidelines and encourages all volunteers with direct knowledge of a reportable case to be involved in the reporting process. More information on reporting guidelines at [www.franklincountyohio.gov/children\\_services](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services)*

### S.O.P. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Abuse may be physical, sexual, emotional, or negligent in nature. Additional probing questions should be asked if abuse is suspected including; name of alleged perpetrator, names and addresses of caregivers, and description of abuse. Thoroughly document suspected abuse, reports, and follow-up. All PDHC charting guidelines should be followed.

2. Inform the Caring Center Nurse Manager, as soon as possible, after you have dealt with a case of suspected abuse. Non-mandated reporters who worked directly with the reportable client are encouraged to be involved in the reporting process.

3. The mandated reporter calls in all cases of suspected abuse as soon as possible. Cases in Franklin County should be reported to [614-229-7000](tel:614-229-7000), cases in Fairfield County are reported to [740-653-4060](tel:740-653-4060). Any follow-up from Children Services should be included in the client's file.

### **REPORTING OF SEXUAL ABUSE GUIDELINES:**

- Age 16 is the age of sexual consent in the state of Ohio.
- If any client age **12 and under** reports sexual activity, consensual or non-consensual, with anyone of any age, this is considered sexual abuse in all cases and is reportable.

- If the client is **age 13, 14, or 15** and she had consensual sex with someone 18 years old or older, this is reportable.
- If the client is **age 16 or 17** and had consensual sex with someone who had custodial or supervisory authority over the client (e.g., parent, teacher, boss, etc.), this is reportable.
- All cases of a minor (any child under age 18, or persons under 21 with a physical, developmental, or mental impairment) who reports non-consensual sex is reportable. If an assessment is made that a client (not a minor) is being abused, physically, emotionally, or sexually, a referral to an agency in our referrals that helps with abuse should be strongly encouraged.
- Refer adults (18 or over) who report being abused to: 1) The Police 2) A mental health provider or 3) Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence 224-4663.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

**Consensual** - This means that the child participates in the act agreeably and not in the presence of force, threat of force, or by deception, and, in the absence of impaired judgment or control resulting from the perpetrator's administering of any drugs or intoxicants to the child.

**Non-consensual** – This means that the child participates in the act as a result of force, threat of force or by deception, or, in the presence of impaired judgment or control resulting from the perpetrator's administering of any drugs or intoxicants to the child.