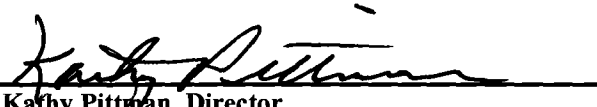


**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES**

Subject: ABUSE AND NEGLECT REFERRAL PROCESS	Policy Number: 24
Number of Pages: 2	Section:
Attachments: A. Abuse and Neglect Intake Referral Form B. Social Services Contact Sheet	Related Standards & References:
Effective Date: 10-1-11	Approved:  Kathy Pittman, Director

I. POLICY

Division of Youth Services staff is obligated to report any allegations or suspicion of abuse and neglect case.

II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy and procedure, the following definitions apply:

Abused child – means a child whose parent, guardian or custodian or any person responsible for his care or support, where legally obligated to do so or not, has caused or allowed to be caused upon said child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, emotional abuse, mental injury, non-accidental physical injury or other maltreatment. Provided, however, that physical discipline, including spanking, performed on a child by a parent, guardian or custodian in a reasonable manner shall not be deemed abuse under this section.

Neglected child- means a child whose parent, guardian or custodian or any person responsible for his care or support, neglects or refuses, when able so to do, to provide for him proper and necessary care or support, or education as required by law, or medical, surgical, or other care necessary for his well-being; provided, however, a parent who withholds medical treatment from any child who in good faith is under treatment by spiritual means alone through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination by duly accredited practitioner thereof shall not, for that reason alone, be considered to be neglectful under any provision of this chapter.

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III. PROCEDURE

- A. Any Division of Youth Services staff is responsible to report abuse and neglect cases.
- B. The Division of Youth Services staff must call the 1-800-222-8000 centralize intake unit to report a case.
- C. Once the Division of Youth Services staff member has reported the case, it is the DYS staff member's responsibility to fax a copy of a social services contact form to the centralize intake unit.
- D. The social services contact sheet must be completed with as much information as possible. Keep in mind Family and Children Services need enough information to initiate an investigation.