

Abuse Investigation Criteria

The CFS Act defines abuse as “an act or omission by any person where the act of omission results in:

1. Physical injury to the child,
2. Emotional disability of a permanent nature in the child or is likely to result in such a disability, or
3. Sexual exploitation of the child with or without the child’s consent.”

The Child and Family Services Act (the Act) section 17 (2) (c) states that “a child is in need of protection where the child is abused or is in danger of being abused”.

Section 18.4 (1) of *the Act* further states that:

Where an agency receives information that causes the agency to suspect that a child is in need of protection, the agency shall immediately investigate the matter and where, upon investigation, the agency concludes that the child is in need of protection, the agency shall take such further steps as are required by this Act or are prescribed by regulation or as the agency considers necessary for protection of the child.

The AIP will assess and evaluate all requests for abuse investigation services in accordance with the above three provisions of *the Act*.

Referrals will be assessed and accepted based upon the following three types of suspected abuse:

1. Physical Abuse

A. Physical Injury

A child has an alleged physical injury as a result of an act or omission of a person.

B. Physical Discipline

Allegation of physical discipline which involves any of the following factors:

- The use of an object/implement
- An injury to a child as a result of physical discipline
- Physical discipline was administered to the child’s head
- The child is under the age of two or over the age of twelve (in accordance with Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada)
- Physical discipline was conducted in a manner that was degrading, inhuman, or harmful