

Assessment and Investigation

Standards

- 1 The worker continues the assessment/investigation of all child protection allegations referred from intake or identified in an active case. The assessment/investigation includes:
 - contact with the referral source
 - face-to-face* contact with the child alleged to be in need of protection
 - face-to-face* contact with other children residing in the household
 - face-to-face* contact with the caregiver, custodial parent(s) or guardian
 - contact with the alleged abuser as appropriate
 - visit to the family home
 - contact with others involved with the family as required
- 2 The worker *records* in chronological order, the dates, the identity of and information obtained from interviews with all contacts.
- 3 The worker, *immediately and within 24 hours*, makes every effort to ensure any child is medically examined where there are allegations of:
 - physical abuse including neglect which results in serious physical injury or sexual abuse which has occurred *within the previous 72 hours*
- 4 The worker consults with a medical practitioner and where recommended, arranges for a medical examination of the child in allegations of abuse, including neglect, where there may be evidence of minor injuries, old injuries or sexual abuse.
- 5 Where a decision has been made not to refer or consult with a medical practitioner, or where the medical practitioner has advised the child not be examined or where the examination is not possible within the specified time frames, the reasons are documented on file.
- 6 In all situations where there is an injury that is alleged to be resulting from abuse/neglect or sexual abuse, the worker *within 24 hours*:
 - notifies the local police and consults with them about the investigative process

NOTE: the injury is real; the abuse is alleged.