

INTRODUCTION

Greene County Children Services is the agency designated by the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 5153, to accept and investigate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect within Greene County. The agency is responsible for this activity 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The purpose of this handbook is to assist in the screening activities involved with the receipt of these reports. Screening in Child Protective Services is important at the intake phase as a method to gather as much data as possible to determine levels of risk and need among cases which come to the attention of the agency. Good screening enhances protection of children and coordination of services.

Instructions

The agency accepts referrals from any person, whether a mandated reporter or private citizen. The parents or the child may initiate reports. The agency treats anonymous reports no differently than any other reports. However, anonymous reporters are encouraged to disclose their identity in order to be available to the worker assigned. All reports of suspected child abuse or neglect are given equally careful attention, irrespective of the source of the referral.

The person screening the report should explain to the reporter the agency's statutory responsibilities and the types of services provided. The reporter and any person providing information should be informed that a subpoena for judicial testimony may be issued if court intervention is deemed necessary.

Each person reporting suspected child abuse and neglect should be informed whether or not the information they provided will be accepted for services. Mandated reporters may be given the following information: a) whether the agency has initiated an investigation; b) whether the agency is continuing to investigate; c) whether the agency is otherwise involved with the child who is the subject of the report; d) the general status of the health and

safety of the child who is the subject of the report; and e) whether the report has resulted in the filing of a complaint in juvenile court or of criminal charges in another court.

The identities of the reporter and any person providing information during the course of a child abuse or neglect investigation shall remain confidential. The identities of these individuals shall not be released or affirmed to any party, except for those listed in Ohio Administrative Code rule 5101:2-34-38, without the written consent of the individuals involved.