



MOOSE JAW SOCCER ASSOCIATION INC.

CHILD ABUSE PROTOCOL

The Moose Jaw Soccer Association (MJSA) is committed to providing a safe place for our children. It is everyone's duty to protect children and recognize and identify incidents of child abuse as well as to respond to and investigate reports of child abuse.

All citizens have a duty to report suspected child abuse by law. When there is a suspicion that abuse/neglect has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur, by law a report is required to be made to the appropriate authorities. Every individual has a personal duty to report suspected child abuse and neglect. This personal obligation cannot be delegate to another individual.

The Child and Family Services Act provides the mandate for the Ministry of Social Services and First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies to investigate suspected abuse and neglect of children by their parents, guardians or other adults in the household who provide day-to-day care and supervision of the child. Section 11 of the *Act* defines the circumstances in which a child is in need of protection.

Physical Abuse – all actions resulting in non-accidental physical injury or harm, may include non-accidental injury, cruel or excessive corporal punishment (which may or may not cause physical injury), threats of physical harm, dangerous behaviour towards a child or in immediate proximity to the child (ie. Throwing objects, use of weapons).

Sexual Abuse/Exploitation – occurs when a child has been or is likely to be exposed to harmful interaction for a sexual purpose by a parent, caretaker, any person in a position of trust and/or any other person. It can include both physical and/or non-physical contact. Examples include engaging a child in sexual acts, obscene acts, taking pictures of a sexual nature (sexual exploitation), pornography, voyeurism, exhibitionism, and threatening sexual assault, as well as the utilization of “grooming” techniques (Criminal code defines age of consent as 16 but is subject to close in age and abuse of authority exceptions).

Physical Neglect – acts of omission on the part of a parent/caregiver. This includes failure to provide for the child's basic needs and appropriate level of care with respect to food, clothing, shelter, medical/health hygiene, safety and supervision as determined by the minimum levels of care standards. Physical neglect can also include when children less than 12 years of age have committed an act that if the child were 12 years of age or more would constitute a criminal offence.

Emotional Maltreatment – refers to both emotional abuse and emotional neglect of the child. Emotional abuse includes excessive and overt rejection, criticism and excessive demands of performance for a child's age and ability. Emotional neglect refers to failure of the

parent/caregiver to provide adequate psychological nurturance necessary for a child's growth and development.

Exposure to Domestic or Interpersonal Violence – refers to a child living in a situation where there is interpersonal violence, including children witnessing, hearing or being aware of violence perpetrated by one adult figure against another adult figure, or against another child

Failure to provide essential Medical Treatment – refers to a parent or caregiver failing to provide essential medical treatment or to remedy a mental, emotional or developmental condition of a child. Can also include parents/caregivers who have children with mental health and/or addiction concerns that are not being treated.

Unlawful Practices – certain unlawful practices are also considered physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children under Canadian law, including but not limited to forced marriage, marriage under age 16 and female genital mutilation. The reference to “forced” marriage not only acknowledges the lack of consent, but also recognizes that in such circumstances other criminal acts may be committed to “force” the person into the marriage, including threats, forcible confinement, assault, and sexual assault.

Receiving Disclosures of Abuse from a Child

Regardless of the type of abuse a child reports, all disclosures must be treated in a similar manner. If a child makes a disclosure:

- Listen openly and control your reaction;
- Reassure the child that he/she is safe and this is not his/her fault;
- Do not correct language and let the child report the incident in his/her own words;
- Record what the child has reported and your observations; and
- Avoid making promises that cannot be kept (e.g., “I won’t tell anyone. I will keep this a secret.”)

If a child discloses abuse, do not ask leading questions or insert information. When reporting, convey the information in the child's words.

Reluctance to report can contribute to continued abuse and even death

- Your duty to report suspected child abuse overrides any duty to protect the privacy of clients, individuals
- You have a legal obligation to report regardless if it is regarding family, a friend or neighbour
- Just because a report is made that does not mean a child will be removed from the home. A caseworker will assess the situation and where possible will provide supports to the family so the child can remain in the home safely.

Report even if you do not have all the information. It is not your responsibility to determine if the abuse has occurred – report what information you have. Report in a timely manner – timeliness is essential. Delays in reporting can impact an investigation and the integrity of evidence.

Even if you believe someone else is reporting the information you still have a legal duty to report the information you have.

Report the following:

- Your immediate concerns about the child's safety;
- Child's location, name age and gender
- Information about the family, caregivers and alleged abusers;
- Other children who may be affected; and
- Any other relevant information

Two provincial acts that apply to child abuse are:

1. *The Child and Family Services Act* applies to children under the age of 16 and in exceptional circumstances youth ages 16 and 17.
2. *The Emergency Protection of Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act* applies to children and youth under the age of 18.

The *Criminal Code of Canada* governs situations as it relates to criminal offenses perpetrated against children under the age of 18.

Report to:

Ministry of social services child protection office

First nations child and family services agency child protection office

Local child protection intake line – Regina (South) 1-844-787-3760

After hours mobile crisis services – Local police/RCMP

The Child and family Services Act

The Emergency Protection of Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act

Child Abuse Protocol (2017) and “Duty to Report” responsibilities

Your Local Police or RCMP Detachment.