



PO 225.1: Responsibility to Report Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect Cases

PR 225.1.

As mandated by Illinois law under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, all staff involved in the administration of GA are required to **immediately** report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Report suspected child abuse or neglect to the DCFS Central Register when:

- there is reason to believe that a child may be abused or neglected, or
- information is received that a child may be abused or neglected.

Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect to DCFS may be made 24 hours a day. GA Unit staff are required to submit a written report of the incident to DCFS within 48 hours of the initial verbal report.

This reporting requirement applies to all staff involved in the administration of GA. This includes income maintenance and any other staff who suspect that a child with whom they have had contact in their working capacity has been subjected to abuse or neglect.

Abuse is defined as one of the following actions by a parent, immediate family member, a person responsible for the child's welfare, a person who resides in the same home as the child, or a person having access on a continuing basis to the same home as the child:

- an action causing or creating risk of causing (by other than accidental means):
 - physical injury,
 - death,
 - disfigurement,
 - impairment of physical or emotional health,
 - loss or impairment of any body function;
- sexual abuse;
- acts of torture;
- excessive corporal punishment.

Neglect is defined as the failure of a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare, to provide the proper or necessary support, education, medical, or other remedial care recognized as necessary for the well-being of the child; or the abandonment of the child by a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare.