

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVESTIGATION PROCESS FOR ALLEGED JUVENILE PERPETRATORS

The Children's Division has received a report of child abuse or neglect which involves you as an alleged perpetrator. As a juvenile, your parents will be notified of the report and receive information explaining the investigative process. The law requires the Children's Division to investigate any reports received regarding abuse and neglect and will provide the alleged perpetrator a written description of the investigative process.

Important Information You Need to Know:

- The identity of the reporter is confidential and may not even be known to the Division. Reports can be made anonymously.
- The Division will also notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when an investigation is received to co-investigate.
 - An investigation involves the collection of physical and/or verbal evidence.
 - The Division's role is not to conduct a criminal investigation.
 - Information uncovered in the investigation may be shared with law enforcement.
- As a juvenile, you are entitled to the same rights as an adult.
 - The juvenile office will be notified if you are to be questioned by law enforcement in connection with a delinquent offense,
 - The juvenile officer or their designee will advise you of your rights before the questioning begins.
 - You may stop questioning at any time or refuse to answer questions.
- An investigation has two possible outcomes:
 - "Unsubstantiated". There is not enough evidence to prove that child abuse and neglect has occurred.
 - "Preponderance of Evidence". There is a greater than 50% chance that child abuse and/or neglect occurred.
- The "Central Registry" is a list of persons who have been found by a preponderance of evidence to have abused or neglected a child or who have been convicted or pleaded guilty to certain crimes.
 - If a determination of abuse and/or neglect of a child has been found against you, you will be placed in the Central Registry forever.
 - Being placed on the Central Registry could impact future employment opportunities and limit the ability to work with children in the future.
- If the Division makes a finding of preponderance of evidence, the juvenile office will be notified.
 - Any further legal consequences would be imposed by the juvenile office.

The Division will make every attempt to complete this investigation within forty-five (45) days. You will receive a letter once the investigation is completed with the findings of the investigation. The Children's Division will also work with you and your family to assess if services are needed and can assist you with finding services.