

Chapter:	Intake and Investigation	
Subject:	Responding to Domestic Violence in Child Abuse Intake and Investigation	Page 1 of 2
Approved:	Don Mandelkorn, Division Director	Effective: 11/19/03 FINAL
Supersedes:		Dated:

Purpose

To define the role and responsibilities of intake, supervisory and domestic violence unit staff when responding to coexisting child abuse/neglect and domestic violence cases.

Policy

Case consultation by the Domestic Violence Unit is a necessary component to identify specific strategies to achieve child safety in cases where domestic violence is present. Social workers and supervisors are expected to utilize case consultation provided by the Domestic Violence Unit. The goal of consultation is to maximize resources, improve consistency of response and achieve outcomes of safety, permanency and well-being.

Accepted Intakes

The Domestic Violence Unit will provide consultation to division staff on all intakes that are accepted for assessment, as follows:

- ***Domestic Violence is an immediate concern with Level 1 response time:*** Whenever possible, the social worker or supervisor will contact the Domestic Violence unit before commencing the assessment and interviewing the child at risk or any adult in the family.
- ***Other cases where domestic violence is an immediate concern or a contributing factor:*** The Domestic Violence Unit staff will contact the social worker or supervisor by phone or e-mail within 48 hours of intake acceptance. If a more immediate response is needed, the social workers or supervisor may contact the Domestic Violence Unit directly via phone or pager.

Unaccepted Intakes

The Domestic Violence Unit will review all intakes that are not accepted but which have domestic violence listed as an immediate concern.

- The Domestic Violence Unit will assess reports made by community service providers or professionals to determine the need for consultation and training to reporter or reporter's agency to increase awareness about children and youth and domestic violence.

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- The Domestic Violence Unit will not makes contacts regarding reports by family members, relatives, natural support systems, friends, unless outreach can be conducted safely.

Disagreements About Report Acceptance

When the Domestic Violence Unit and the supervisor disagree with an acceptance decision specific to risk of harm caused by domestic violence, the Child Safety Manager will make the final determination.

Definition

Domestic Violence: A pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors including physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and economic coercion that an adult or adolescent uses to obtain and maintain control over their intimate partner.

Domestic violence does not typically include child abuse, child to parent violence or sibling violence, which are considered forms of family violence for our purposes.

Background

It is widely accepted that in co-occurring child abuse and domestic violence cases achieving safety and stability for children is closely linked to creating safety for the adult victim. Removing risks posed by the batterer is critical to achieving child safety.

Interventions designed to address child abuse and neglect can potentially escalate violence to adult and child victims of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Unit has the expertise to assist division staff with the coordination and development of appropriate and effective interventions in child abuse cases involving domestic violence.

Intake workers should be familiar with the domestic violence definition so that they accurately indicate when domestic violence is a contributing factor or immediate concern for a family. (The definition is accessible on the Incident Details screen.) Intakes in which domestic violence is indicated as a contributing factor or immediate concern are automatically referred to the Domestic Violence Unit for review.