

MI-WIC POLICY

Service Coordination and Outreach

6.0 Service Coordination and Outreach

Effective Date: 6/1/09

6.06 Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse

PURPOSE: To conform to the reporting requirements of the Michigan Child Protection Law (Act 238 of 1975, as amended)

A. POLICY

1. WIC staff shall abide by the Michigan Child Protection Law (Act 238 of 1975, as amended) in regards to the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect.
2. If an agency, after following their own internal procedures, determines that a report is required, then a written report shall be filed and sent to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and a copy filed with the agency.

B. GUIDANCE

1. It is recommended that each agency have a written procedure to insure that the Michigan Child Protection Law is followed and that the agency procedures are followed with respect to handling cases of suspected abuse and neglect.
2. Act 238 of 1975 is very specific about defining which persons are required to report and what types of abuse and neglect are reportable. It is recommended that each agency have at least one person who keeps apprised of changes in the law and is responsible for changing agency policy and keeping WIC staff informed. The person within an agency assigned this task may or may not be a WIC staff person.
3. Act 238 of 1975, as amended, states that in addition to those persons required to report child abuse or neglect, any person, including a child, who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect may report the matter to DHS or a law enforcement agency.

References:

State of Michigan Child Protection Law, Act No. 238, as amended
Sections 722.621-722.636 Michigan Compiled Laws

Cross Reference:

Policy 1.03 Confidentiality

Exhibits:

1.16A Summary of Act 238 of 1975