

Zebra Referral Guidelines



Zebra Child Protection Centre Ph 780 421 2385 Fax 780 421 2334

INTAKE CO-ORDINATOR AT 780 421 2385. Pls ask for intake co-ordinator.

ZEBRA CHILD PROTECTION MANDATE and PROTOCOL

- Cases of sexual assault where the child is 13 or under at time of reporting. (interview children – 3 years old, youngest)
- Cases of severe physical assault of a child under the age of 16. (i.e. shaken babies or older children with injuries like broken bones)
- Cases of sexual assault where the child is 14 or 15 years of age at the time based on several factors including the use of weapon, threats to a third party, use of forensic evidence kit, multi- jurisdictional elements or historical events .
- Provide courtesy interviews for police agencies outside of Edmonton (RCMP or Municipal police agency)
- Courtesy interviews for local and regional Children’s Services offices which have no criminal component, but are considered complex interviews (i.e. lower functioning children, FASD, etc) which may have the potential to turn criminal depending on the disclosure

INTERVIEWS

- In most cases the interviews are done by 1 of the 2 Zebra Centre Specialized Investigators/ Assessors from Edmonton and area Child and Family Services who have received advanced training in Child Forensic Interviews
- The Specialized Investigators/Assessors also conduct interviews with respect not only to sexual abuse, but courtesy child witness interviews for homicide and domestic violence investigations.
- If the specialized investigators/assessors are not available then the RCMP member posted to Zebra will conduct the interview.
- In special circumstances where the child is not able to come to Edmonton to the Zebra Centre, the RCMP member posted to Zebra may be able to accommodate the request and travel to the detachment and conduct the interview.

REQUIREMENTS WHEN REFERRING A FILE

- The investigating member or investigating agency is responsible for the file and it's progression through the Zebra interview phase. The member is required to attend the Zebra Centre and monitor the interview. If the member cannot attend, then it is the member's responsibility to find a replacement monitor on their behalf.
- We appreciate that this may cause resourcing issues at smaller detachments, however we consider the monitoring process as a valuable learning opportunity along with continued ownership of the file for a successful resolution
- When a disclosure is made by a child, please ensure that a statement is taken from the person(s) that the child disclosed to. The statement regarding the disclosure is **not to be done in the presence of the child**. The

information is beneficial when assessing the initial information received at Zebra. (i.e. child said mom/dad touched my privates (what was the context of the disclosure) i.e. hygiene issues, bath time, medical issues, etc

- Find out as much information with regards to the family tree. (i.e. are bio mom and dad together, siblings, living arrangements , etc.)
- Seek information about custody and access agreements if bio mom and dad are not together.
- Has Children's Services been advised or actively engaged in investigation? If so, obtain the name of the worker.

ASSESSING THE ACUTENESS OF A DISCLOSURE

- How recently has the incident occurred? If injuries present, is there pain, bleeding or discharge? Seek medical attention immediately.
- Consider the possibility of forensic evidence collection (i.e. medical exam, pictures or clothing etc)
- **Consider consultation with medical professionals. Child Adolescent Protection Center (CAPC) at the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton.**
- **The medical professionals at CAPC also provide support to local community physicians. Please ensure the local physician is aware of the CAPC resources .**
 - **Dr. Lionel DIBDEN (Pediatrician/Director) 780-407-1240
lionel.dibden@albertahealthservices.ca**
 - **Dr. Michele HARVEY- BLANKENSHIP (Pediatrician) 780-407-1240
michele.harvey-blankenship@albertahealthservices.ca**
 - **Hanifa Jassani - Specialized Assessor , Children's Services
780-407-1240 hanifa.jassani@gov.ab.ca**
 - **Secretary at CAPC 780-407-1240 or 780-407-7913 fax 780-407-1239**
- Possibility of maintaining the security of a crime scene
- Ensure safety planning has been covered off (i.e. is the victim still in contact or living with the suspect, are their other children at risk? Work in

partnership with Children's services to ensure the safety of the child is in the forefront

- If the event is not acute and no urgent medical attention is needed, then the medical exam should be considered after the interview to avoid cross contamination of information regarding the medical exam and the details of the event.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CALL THE ZEBRA CENTRE

- Files are brought forward daily by the intake worker and discussed as a collaborative team. Partners present during the intake meeting are members from Edmonton Police Service, Children Services, RCMP, and CAPC Doctors .
- A decision is made jointly as to whether or not the request for Zebra Assistance meets the mandate. The decision or follow up is then relayed back to the investigating or requesting member.

Any questions please contact me 780 391 5068 or cell 780 863 4657
marian.boser@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Cpl. Marian Boser



[www. Zebracentre.ca](http://www.Zebracentre.ca)