

Reporting Protocols of the NT Professional Standards Office.

In the Northern Territory, under the Care and Protection Act 2007, it is mandatory for any adult who believes a child has been, or is likely to suffer harm or exploitation or be a victim of a sexual offence to report the matter to the statutory child protection or the Police. Harm is defined to include exposure to domestic and family violence, along with other forms of abuse or neglect. The NT Professional Standards Office (PSO) refers all matters of sexual abuse to the NT Police, including historical matters and if the accused is deceased.

The name of the accused is always provided to the Police, with any other information that is available. The name of the complainant is not provided unless they agree. We strongly encourage the complainant to make the complaint, and we offer to go with them to make the complaint.

We report to the Superintendent of the Sex Crimes Unit from the NT Police. The following process is employed:

- The complainant is informed that it is the policy of the PSO to report the matter to the Police. A discussion is held with the complainant about whether they would like their name to be provided or not;
- A phone call is made to the Head of the Sex Crimes Unit with an explanation of the role of the PSO, and information in relation to the complaint; and the complainant if they have given permission to do so;
- An email is then sent to the Head of the Sex Crimes Unit, with the information outlined above included. An electronic BCC to the sender of the email is included, in order to create an electronic trail; and
- A copy of the email and relevant case notes are printed and placed on file.

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