

Royal Children's Hospital	POLICY: NOTIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES - CHILD PROTECTION	Issue date: October 2013
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1. Policy statement

The Gatehouse is committed to ensuring the well being, safety and protection of children at all times and recognizes the mandatory reporting legislation contained in Section 64 of the Children & Young Persons' Act, 1989.

The Gatehouse supports the need for all professionals, whether mandated or not, to consider notification where the belief has been formed that a child or young person is or may be in need of protection from sexual abuse or physical injury which results from abuse or neglect (cf. Child & Young Persons Act, Further Amendment, 1993).

The decision to make a notification to the Department of Human Services - Child Protection, is part of a collaborative, multidisciplinary process which may involve the Gatehouse Duty Worker, VPMS Medical staff, the general hospital Medical and Nursing staff, Social Work Department Ward Workers, as well as Gatehouse Clinician(s) who has been working with the child/young person.

2. Person's Affected

All Gatehouse Centre Counselling Staff

3. Responsibilities

- *Gatehouse staff are responsible for:*
- Familiarizing themselves with the relevant legislation
- Following through with the requirements of the legislation
- Raising related issues in supervision/intake/other appropriate internal forums
- Informing families, together with members of the relevant Royal Children's Hospital Staff, that a notification is to be made and what may happen next. It is RCH protocol that families are informed of notification either prior to this occurring or as soon as is practicable after this has been done, UNLESS it is believed that this will place the child/children at increased risk of harm (physical and/or emotional).

Gatehouse Executive is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all staff are informed of the legislative requirements

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- Ensuring that copies of the legislation are available to all staff
- Supporting staff in following through with the legislative requirements

Other Relevant References

Child & Young Persons Act, Further Amendment, 1993
Children and Young Persons' Act, 1989
RCH Clinical Practice Guidelines - Child Abuse