

Royal Children's Hospital	POLICY: Clinical Services – SABTS working with TTO	Policy No: GHC
		Issue Date: September 2013
Gatehouse (for the Assessment & Treatment of Child Abuse)		Review Date: September 2014
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1. Policy statement

The Gatehouse (“The agency”) has a commitment to the provision of quality services to all Gatehouse clients. This includes ensuring that our clinical practices –

- hold the clients (children, young people and families) at the centre of our provision of care.
- Are inclusive and respectful of ethnicity, gender and religious affiliations
- Are informed by best practice approaches
- Occur in line with best interest principles
- Are carried out in keeping with the professional ethics and codes of conduct of relevant professional bodies and associations, the Australian & New Zealand Association for the treatment of Sexual Abuse (ANZATSA) and the RCH.

The REFOCUS Program provides an assessment and treatment service for children, adolescents (up to 15 years) who have exhibited problematic or sexually abusive behaviour and their family.

2. Legal Status – Therapeutic Treatment Orders (TTO)

The legislation informing the legal processes associated with TTO in Victoria is contained within the Children’s, Youth & Families Act, 2005; Division 3 - Children in need of therapeutic treatment, Subdivisions 1 – 6, (pp157 – 184).

3. Do all children or young people have a TTO?

After investigation by DHS-Child Protection, children or adolescents and their family can be referred to Gatehouse REFOCUS Program on the basis of a *Therapeutic Treatment Order* (TTO) which is overseen by Child Protection for the duration (12 months) or as *Voluntary* (or without a TTO). For the purposes of Assessment and Treatment at Gatehouse, children, adolescents and families have the same rights and responsibilities regardless of their legal status. The duration of engagement is always informed by the treatment goals developed with the family, and the therapeutic progress and will therefore vary across individual families.

4. What if a family attending voluntarily chooses not to continue to engage with the service?

On the event that a family attending voluntarily chooses to -

- cease engagement with Gatehouse prior to completion of the Assessment or Treatment phase or
- who choose to attend Gatehouse and do not meaningfully engage in the process a notification to Child protection will be made by the agency.

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Child protection may subsequently choose to pursue a Therapeutic Treatment Order (TTO) for the family to assist them with this process. The family are then able to be re referred to Gatehouse by Child protection and engage in accordance with the conditions attached to the TTO.

5. What happens to what children, adolescents and families tell us in sessions?

Prior to commencing sessions, children, adolescents and families are advised of the “limits to confidentiality” that apply. Should a therapist become aware that there is unacceptable risk present this will be notified to the most appropriate person or agency in order to maintain the safety of all children and young people. The child, adolescent or family will be advised of this decision prior to this occurring.

Children, young people and families are advised on commencing with Gatehouse that under the conditions of a TTO, Child Protection will request regular updates (either oral or written) of the family's progress in Treatment. This will be discussed with family's prior to any information is made available to Child Protection or via subpoena for courts.

6. Persons affected

All Gatehouse Centre Staff

7. Other relevant references

RCH Interpreter and Non-English Speaking Services policy