

CHILD PROTECTION

Effective Date: December 13, 2016
Revised Date: April 12, 2022

1. Policy Statement

The City of Pitt Meadows promotes healthy environments for children and will provide facilities, programs and services where children are safe from abuse and neglect.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide overall departmental guidance to support the City's legal obligation under the Child, Family, and Community Services Act to report suspected abuse and neglect.

3. Scope

This policy addresses the protection of children while in Parks, Recreation and Culture programs and services, or within the community.

4. Policy

Staff have a "Duty to Report" any suspected abuse and neglect. Staff will document information about the child, their behaviours and the immediate concerns for the child's safety in preparation to file a report.

4.1. Definitions

In this policy,

- (a) *Child* means a person under the age of 19 years.
- (b) *Abuse* means intentional treatment of a person that results in harm or injury, or may result in harm or injury. May include physical, sexual and emotional harm.



- (c) **Physical Abuse** means a deliberate physical assault or action by a person that results in, or is likely to result in, physical harm to a child or youth.
- (d) **Sexual Abuse** - when a child or youth is used (or likely to be used) for the sexual gratification of another person.
- (e) **Emotional Abuse** - a child or youth is defined as emotionally harmed if they demonstrate severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or self destructive or aggressive behaviour.
- (f) **Neglect** - a failure to provide for a child's or youth's basic needs. It involves an act of omission by the parent or guardian, resulting in (or likely to result in) harm to the child or youth.

4.2. Roles and Responsibilities

- (a) Council
 - (i) Approve the Child Protection Policy.
- (b) Staff
 - (i) Provide training and awareness for new staff, service providers and volunteers on the awareness for signs and symptoms of possible child abuse or neglect and the process to report.
 - (ii) Take action and report to identified authorities if there is reason to believe that the safety or wellbeing of a child is at risk.

4.3. Procedures and Guidelines

- (a) City staff, service providers, and volunteers will follow the guidelines listed below:
 - (i) If a child is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1 to intervene and a child protection social worker should be contacted to determine whether the child is in need of protection.
 - (ii) If you think a child or youth under 19 years of age is being abused or neglected, you have the legal duty to report your concern to a child welfare worker. Phone the Provincial Centralized Screening team (PCS) at any time of the day or night.

- (a) The PCS's role is to receive and assess child protection reports across the province and can be reached at the following number:
1-800-663-9122.

5. Related Policies
No applicable policies