



# *Saskatchewan College of Psychologists*

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## Membership Advisory

### **Child Abuse Protocol - Revision**

On June 4, 2015 an email was received from the Ministry of Health regarding revisions to the Sask. Child Abuse Protocol. Excerpts from that email relevant to practice are as follows:

“...an updated Child Abuse Protocol was announced by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Services in late October, 2014. This revised protocol supports the Saskatchewan Child and Family Agenda, and will enhance the province’s coordinated and integrated approach to child abuse investigations, while clarifying responsibilities for protecting children.

The protocol has been shortened and is more user-friendly, concisely explaining the role government ministries, police, communities, organizations and individuals play in responding to suspicions of child abuse.”

“You can view the new protocol and a Child Protection Services Fact Sheet online at the Ministry of Social Services website ...:

- Child Abuse Protocol (English)  
[http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications\\_Centre/SocialServices/Saskatchewan-Child-Abuse-Protocol-2014.pdf](http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications_Centre/SocialServices/Saskatchewan-Child-Abuse-Protocol-2014.pdf)
- Child Abuse Protocol (French)  
[http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications\\_Centre/SocialServices/Protocole-2014-de-la-Saskatchewan-sur-l'enfance-maltraitee.pdf](http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications_Centre/SocialServices/Protocole-2014-de-la-Saskatchewan-sur-l'enfance-maltraitee.pdf)
- Child Protection Services Fact Sheet  
[http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications\\_Centre/SocialServices/Child-Protection-factsheet.pdf](http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications_Centre/SocialServices/Child-Protection-factsheet.pdf)”

- “The revised Child Abuse Protocol clearly states that it is the responsibility of all people in Saskatchewan to protect children from abuse.
- The revised Child Abuse Protocol is more user-friendly and clearly outlines roles and responsibilities. It replaces all earlier Child Abuse Protocol documents.
- Instances of child abuse negatively impact the health and well-being of children, their families and communities both directly and indirectly. Child abuse is a serious issue that requires a community response and the co-operation of service providers and the public. It is imperative for every individual to report suspicions of child abuse.
- If you observe or receive a disclosure of abuse from a child, or if you suspect child abuse or neglect, it is your personal and legal duty to report your observations and suspicions to the local Ministry of Social Services child protection office, First Nations Child and Family Services Agency or the police.

- The duty to report overrides other standards of confidentiality when you have a reason to believe that a child may be abused or neglected.
- There are no negative legal consequences for making a report as long as it is not made maliciously and is made in good faith. Failure to report suspicions of child abuse and neglect may result in professional disciplinary or legal action.
- It is the responsibility of each agency that provides direct services to children and families, including community-based or non-profit agencies, to ensure the Child Abuse Protocol is operationalized at the local level and appropriately identified in policies and procedures. The expectation is that agencies will now review any existing policies for compliance.
- Individuals and agencies must work together to share information regarding the child's needs as required throughout the investigation, assessment and treatment of the child.”