



Protocol: Priority Response Definitions/Examples

Supplemental to: DCS Policy 14.3 Screening, Priority Response and Assignment

1. **Priority-1 reports allege that children may be in imminent danger that includes, but not limited to:**
 - a) A custodial child with injuries related to allegations of abuse or neglect,
 - b) Tormented or tortured,
 - c) Life threatening situations or significant injuries (i.e., child under two (2) not being fed properly; under the age of six (6) currently left alone),
 - d) Living in a home where another child died as a result of maltreatment,
 - e) Sexual abuse where the alleged perpetrator has current access or will have access within next forty-eight (48) hours or perpetrator's access is unknown,
 - f) Significant injury (i.e., broken bones, burns, lacerations, injuries to head or torso that suggest the use of an instrument such as boards, irons, cigarettes, etc, poisoning or suffocation, use of restraints, bruises, welts and abrasions covering multiple body surfaces or appear in different stages of healing, etc.),
 - g) Family may flee/child made unavailable, or
 - h) Reports from law enforcement or medical professionals requiring assistance that meets criteria for immediate response.

2. **Priority-2 reports allege injuries or risk of injuries that are not imminent, life threatening or do not require immediate medical care and includes, but not limited to:**
 - a) Minor bruises,
 - b) Domestic violence incidents,
 - c) Substantial risk of harm,
 - d) Drug exposed infant, drug exposed child,
 - e) Nutritional neglect,
 - f) Medical neglect – non-life threatening.

3. **Priority-3 allege situations/incidents considered to pose low risk of harm and includes, but not limited to:**
 - a) Environmental neglect (non-life threatening),
 - b) Medical neglect (non-life-threatening),
 - c) Educational assessment (an assessment to identify underlying problems must occur),
 - d) Lack of supervision (not currently alone or over six (6) years old) and abandoned).