

# Arizona Department of Child Safety

## HOTLINE REPORT DECISION TOOL

### STATUTORY AUTHORITY

*Does the information collected justify accepting the report based on Arizona law?*

1. Is the alleged victim presently under the age of 18?  Yes  No
  - a. Are there other children in the home under the age of 18?  Yes  No
2. Is the alleged victim a resident or present in Arizona, or did the suspected abuse or neglect occur in Arizona?  
 Yes  No  Insufficient Information
3. Is the alleged perpetrator a caregiver?  
(Caregiver means a parent, guardian, custodian of the child or adult member in the child's household)  
 Yes  No

### VULNERABILITY

*Factors to consider when assessing child vulnerability, e.g. any condition that results in child's inability to protect self or seek protection from others, check any factor that applies to any child:*

- Age 5 and under
- Diminished physical capacity (e.g. unable to protect themselves or seek protection due to a physical disability)
- Diminished mental capacity (e.g. unable to protect themselves or seek protection due to a cognitive disability)
- Medical or emotional needs (e.g. unable to protect themselves or seek protection due to medically fragile or serious mental illness)
- Lacks visibility in the community (e.g. not in school or child care)

### TYPES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

#### Physical Abuse

*A.R.S. § 8-201: "Abuse" means the infliction or allowing of physical injury, impairment of bodily function or disfigurement or the infliction of or allowing another person to cause serious emotional damage as evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or untoward aggressive behavior and which emotional damage is diagnosed by a medical doctor or psychologist and is caused by the acts or omissions of an individual who has the care, custody and control of a child. Abuse includes :... (b) Physical injury that results from permitting a child to enter or remain in any structure or vehicle in which volatile, toxic or flammable chemicals are found or equipment is possessed by any person for the purpose of manufacturing a dangerous drug.(c) Unreasonable confinement of a child.*

- (1) Death of a child due to physical abuse or suspicious death
- (2) Injuries including, but not limited to:
  - Fractures
  - Brain injury (e.g. subdural hematoma, "shaken baby syndrome")
  - Multiple plane injuries
  - Burns (e.g. immersion burns, cigarette burns, unexplained burns)
  - Face or head injury (e.g. bruises, cuts, abrasions, swelling)
  - Physical injury resulting from permitting a child to enter or remain in a structure or a vehicle that is used for the purposes of manufacturing dangerous drugs
  - Other bodily injuries (e.g. scratches, bruises, cuts, abrasions, swelling, welts)
- (3) Injury inconsistent with explanation
- (4) Caregiver placed child in a dangerous situation or failed to protect the child from abuse
- (5) Unknown injuries to a child observed or reported to be forcefully struck in the face, head, neck genitalia or abdomen which could likely cause an injury
- (6) Child injured during an incident of domestic violence
- (7) Caregiver is described as physically or verbally imposing and threatening that may include, but not limited to:
  - Brandishing weapons
  - Throwing objects at the child that may cause harm
  - Behaving in attacking or aggressive way
- (8) Caregiver restricted or confined child to an enclosed area and/or used a threat of harm or intimidation to force a child to remain in a location or position which may include, but not limited to:
  - Binding a child's arms or legs together
  - Binding a child to an object
  - Locking a child in a cage or confined space
- (9) Child is extremely fearful because of their home situation, present circumstance or because of a threat of additional abuse or neglect (this does not refer to fear of legal disciplinary practice or generalized fear)

## Sexual Abuse

*A.R.S. § 8-201: "Inflicting or allowing sexual abuse, sexual conduct with a minor, sexual assault, molestation of a child, commercial sexual exploitation of a minor, sexual exploitation of a minor, incest or child prostitution"*

- (10) Evidence or disclosure of sexual abuse including:
  - Sexual conduct
  - Sexual assault
  - Child molestation
  - Incest
  - Sex trafficking
  - Creating child pornography
  - Child seduction or grooming
- (11) Indicators consistent with sexual abuse without disclosure including, not limited to:
  - Child has a Sexual Transmitted Infection (STI) that may be an indicator of sexual abuse
  - Child has complained of pain in the genital or anal areas and there are other indicators of sexual abuse
  - Persistent, highly sexualized behavior in a child under the age of 5 chronologically or developmentally that is grossly age inappropriate and there is reason to believe that the most likely manner in which this was learned is having been sexually abused
  - Child displays highly sexualized behavior outside of age appropriate sexual exploration and the behavior is predatory in nature and not an isolated incident and there is reason to believe that the most likely manner in which this was learned is having been sexually abused

## Neglect

*A.R.S. § 8-201: "Neglect" or "neglected" means: (a) the inability or unwillingness of a parent, guardian or custodian of a child to provide that child with supervision, food, clothing, shelter or medical care if that inability or unwillingness causes unreasonable risk of harm to the child's health or welfare, except if the inability of a parent, guardian or custodian to provide services to meet the needs of a child with a disability or chronic illness is solely the result of the unavailability of reasonable services (b) permitting a child to enter or remain in any structure or vehicle in which volatile, toxic or flammable chemicals are found or equipment is possessed by any person for the purposes of manufacturing a dangerous drug (c) a determination by a health professional that a newborn infant was exposed prenatally to a drug or substance and that this exposure was not the result of a medical treatment administered to the mother or the newborn infant by a health professional...the determination by the health professional shall be based on one or more of the following: (i) clinical indicators in the prenatal period including maternal and newborn presentation.; (ii) history of substance use or abuse.; (iii) medical history.; (iv) results of a toxicology or other laboratory test on the mother or the newborn infant.; (d) diagnosis by a health professional of an infant under one year of age with clinical findings consistent with fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effects.; (e) deliberate exposure of a child by a parent, guardian or custodian to sexual conduct or to sexual contact, oral sexual contact or sexual intercourse, bestiality or explicit sexual materials (f) any of the following acts committed by the child's parent, guardian or custodian with reckless disregard as to whether the child is physically present: (i) sexual contact (ii) oral sexual contact (iii) sexual intercourse (iv) bestiality.*

## Neglect - General

- (12) Death of a child due to neglect or suspicious death
- (13) Caregiver knowingly allows or provides the child substance(s) that caused or may cause the child harm including, but not limited to:
  - Non-prescribed medication that caused or may cause harm
  - Inappropriate dosages of over the counter or prescribed medication that caused or may cause harm
  - Adult medication that caused or may cause harm
  - Alcohol that caused or may cause harm
  - Illegal drugs
  - Synthetic drugs
- (14) A newborn or infant who has been exposed prenatally to alcohol or drugs including an infant who is exhibiting symptoms consistent with fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effects (i.e., a substance exposed newborn)
- (15) Caregiver is absent including, but not limited to:
  - Child is alone and is not capable of caring for self or other children
  - No parent, legal guardian or custodian willing or able to provide care, custody or control
  - Child is left with person with no legal authority to care for the child **and** the person cannot care for the child
  - Parent leaves child with person unable to provide adequate care
  - Leaving child unattended in car
- (16) Injuries due to neglect or failure to supervise including, but not limited to:
  - Fractures
  - Brain injury or serious head injury (e.g. subdural hematoma)
  - Burns (e.g. immersion burns, cigarette burns, unexplained burns)
  - Drowning or near drowning
  - Leaving child unattended in a car causing injury

- (17) Child is extremely fearful because of their home situation, present circumstance or because of a threat of additional neglect (this does not refer to fear of legal disciplinary practice or generalized fear)
- (18) Caregiver is unable to perform parental responsibilities consistent with basic needs leaving the child in a threatened state due to the caregiver's:
  - Substance use/abuse
  - Behavioral/mental illness or condition (e.g. depression, situational stress)
  - Physical impairment
  - Cognitive functioning
- (19) Caregiver describes or acts towards the child in predominately negative terms, has a distorted view of the child, or has extremely unrealistic expectations given the child's age or level of development
- (20) Caregiver recklessly or deliberately exposes the child to sexually explicit material or acts
- (21) Caregiver is unwilling or unable to meet the child's needs for supervision, food, clothing, shelter or medical care
- (22) Caregiver allows known sexual predator access to the child

**Neglect - Failure to Protect**

- (23) Caregiver permits a child to enter /remain in a structure or vehicle that's used for the purposes of manufacturing drugs
- (24) Child was in close proximity to an incident of domestic violence and could have been injured (this includes being held by one of the adults during the incident)
- (25) Child's behavior in the home threatens serious or severe harm to self or others and the caregiver is unwilling or unable to control the behavior
- (26) Significant incident or repeated exposure to domestic violence that causes risk of harm to the child

**Neglect - Environment**

- (27) Living environment is a threat to the child's safety including, but not limited to:
  - Building structure or contents capable of falling in
  - Exposure to elements in extreme weather
  - Fire hazards
  - Electrical wiring exposure
  - Weapons accessible and available
  - Access to dangerous objects or harmful substances
  - Access to drugs or paraphernalia
  - Manufacturing of drugs
  - Housing is unsanitary, filthy, infested, a health hazard (e.g. human/animal feces, undisposed garbage, access to dangerous objects or harmful substances, etc.)

**Neglect - Medical**

- (28) Caregiver is unwilling or unable to meet the child's needs for medical health care placing child at imminent risk of harm including but not limited to:
  - Child requires medical care and caregiver is unwilling or unable to seek treatment
  - Caregiver does not administer prescribed medical/psychiatric medication
  - Caregiver leaves medical provider against medical advice (AMA)
- (29) Medical diagnosis of malnutrition / failure to thrive without previously diagnosed health condition

**Emotional Abuse**

*A.R.S. § 8-201: "Emotional abuse" means the infliction or allowing... or the infliction of or allowing another person to cause serious emotional damage as evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or untoward aggressive behavior and which emotional damage is diagnosed by a medical doctor or psychologist and is caused by the acts or omissions of an individual who has the care, custody and control of the child.*

- (30) An incident or pattern of behavior by a caregiver directed toward a child that interferes with child's normal daily functioning including, but not limited to:
  - Berating
  - Name calling
  - Targeting
  - Domestic violence
  - Rejection
- (31) Child is extremely fearful because of his/her home situation, present circumstance or because of a threat of additional abuse or neglect (this does not refer to fear of legal disciplinary practice or generalized fear)

## **INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION**

If there is insufficient information to make an accurate, confident decision, consider a collateral contact and refer to the Collateral Decision Making Tool. Statute requires a report to be taken even if the location and identity of the victim and/or perpetrator is unknown.

## **RESPONSE TIME**

(Refer to Vulnerability Factors. The response time is determined based on the vulnerability factors of the alleged victim child(ren).)

### **PRIORITY 1:**

- Death of a child
- Near fatality
- Abuse or neglect that threatens to immediately cause, or has caused, serious harm or death
- Serious physical injuries to a child (including but not limited to fractures, burns, multiple plane injuries, acceleration/deceleration injuries [shaken baby syndrome], injury to internal organs, etc.)
- Child is alone and is not capable of caring for self or other children
- Evidence or disclosure of sexual abuse toward a child and the perpetrator has access to the child *or* the perpetrator is unknown
- Substance exposed newborn (SEN) who is expected to be discharged from the hospital within 24 hours

### **PRIORITY 2:**

- Abuse or neglect of a child age 0-3
- Abuse or neglect of a vulnerable child, and the child or perpetrator has been the subject of a prior report (this includes the child as a victim in a prior report or the adult as a perpetrator in a prior report)
- All criminal conduct allegations not requiring a Priority 1 response

### **PRIORITY 3:**

- Abuse or neglect of a child that occurred within the last 12 months and does not require a Priority 1 or 2 response

### **PRIORITY 4:**

- Private Dependency Petition (PDP)
- Abuse or neglect that has occurred over one year ago and does not require a Priority 1, 2 or 3 response