



Policy: False Reporting of Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment

ChildNet Number: CN 007.001

Original Approved Date: June 2, 2003

Policy Revised Date(s): September 18, 2008; December 16, 2009

Policy Sunset Date:

COA Standard(s): none

Statement of Policy:

This operating procedure discusses ChildNet's contractual obligation to report any suspected false report of abuse, neglect or abandonment as defined in Chapter 39, Florida Statutes (F.S.) to the Department of Children and Families.

Board Chair Signature: _____

Date: _____

11-15-10



Procedure: False Reporting of Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment

ChildNet Number: CN 007.001

Original Approved Date: June 2, 2003

Procedure Revised Date(s): September 18, 2008; December 16, 2009,
August 22, 2014

Procedure Sunset Date:

COA Standard(s): none

Definitions (If any):

Statement of Procedure:

A. Identifying False Reports

1. "False report" is defined at ss. 39.01(29), F.S., as follows: a report of abuse, neglect, or abandonment of a child to the central abuse hotline, which report is maliciously made for the purpose of: (a) harassing, embarrassing, or harming another person; (b) personal financial gain for the reporting person; (c) acquiring custody of a child; or (d) personal benefit for the reporting person in any other private dispute involving a child." The term "false report" does not include a report of abuse, neglect, or abandonment of a child made in good faith to the central abuse hotline.
2. ChildNet may become aware of a potential false report either through staff observation or as the result of information received from third parties or a complaint submitted by the alleged perpetrator.
3. When any ChildNet employee becomes aware of a potential false report they will inform Senior Staff and ultimately General Counsel will review and determine if notice is required to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Contract Manager for ChildNet. When appropriate General Counsel will forward all information to DCF and/or the Office of The Attorney General so they can make a determination if a criminal investigation is warranted under F.S. 775.082 or F.S. 775.083. ChildNet will assist in the investigation. If it is alleged that the person whom made the false report is a ChildNet employee, General Counsel will inform ChildNet's Talent Management Department along with Senior staff. A determination will be made regarding the employee's employment status pending the investigation period and at the conclusion of the investigation.

President's Signature: _____

Date: 08-27-14