

Iowa Department of Human Services  
**NOTICE OF INTAKE DECISION**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

You are receiving this notice because you made a report of suspected child abuse to our office in \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, regarding \_\_\_\_\_. Iowa law requires that we notify you of our decision on whether or not the Department will take action on the report you made.

- The report of suspected child abuse you made has been accepted for assessment. The assessment takes up to 20 working days to complete. Iowa law does not allow us to notify you of the outcome of the assessment unless you are a mandatory reporter making this report as required by law. The worker assigned may contact you to confirm information or to obtain additional information. Otherwise, there may be no further contact with you. However, we encourage you to contact our office if you continue to have concerns or have additional information.
- The report of suspected child abuse you made will not result in an assessment because:
- The person who is the subject of the suspected abuse is not a child.
  - The person alleged responsible for the abuse is not a caretaker of the child.
  - The reported allegation does not constitute child abuse.
  - The information provided is insufficient to infer that child abuse or neglect has occurred.
  - The reported allegation was previously accepted for assessment or investigation on \_\_\_\_\_.

As a result of your report, we have forwarded information to:

- The county attorney's office
- Law enforcement

Your concerns may best be addressed by you contacting:

- Local school district or AEA
- Law enforcement
- Faith community
- Local child abuse prevention services
- Community based services
- Other services:

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child Protective Intake Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

It is the intent of Iowa child abuse laws to provide the greatest possible protection to victims or potential victims of abuse through:

- ◆ Encouraging the increased reporting of suspected cases of abuse.
- ◆ Ensuring the thorough and prompt assessment of these reports.

Making a report of child abuse may be a stressful event, since you may not fully know what action may come as a result of your report. The following are frequently asked questions.

### **What is Child Abuse?**

Iowa law identifies child abuse as being any of the following, if the result of acts or omissions of the child's caretaker:

- ◆ **Physical abuse:** Injuries that are inflicted non-accidentally, or that do not have an explanation that fits the injury. Spanking a child is not considered to be physical abuse, unless it leaves a bruise or other injury.
- ◆ **Mental injury:** An intellectual or psychological injury that causes observable and substantial impairment and is diagnosed and confirmed by a physician or mental health professional.
- ◆ **Sexual abuse:** Sexual activity with a child, or allowing a child to be sexually abused.
- ◆ **Child prostitution:** Permitting or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution.
- ◆ **Denial of critical care:** A failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, or other care (including medical care, mental health care, or supervision) necessary for a child's well-being when financially able to do so and this exposes a child to danger of injury or death.
- ◆ **Presence of an illegal drug in a child's body:** An illegal drug is found in a child's body.
- ◆ **Manufacturing or possession of a dangerous substance with intent to manufacture:** Illegal drug manufacturing or intent to manufacture in the presence of a child.
- ◆ **Bestiality in the presence of a minor:** A sex act with an animal in the presence of a minor.
- ◆ **Allows access by a registered sex offender:** Knowingly allows unsupervised contact or control or custody by a person who is a registered sex offender.
- ◆ **Allows access to obscene material:** Knowingly allows access to or exhibits or disseminates obscene material to a child.

### **Is the family told who made the report?**

No. Iowa law does not permit the child protection worker or the Department to disclose who made the child abuse report. However, a court may order the Department to identify the reporter.

### **Will the child be removed?**

Removal of the child is considered to be a last resort. Removal occurs only when the child can't be protected in any other way. The Department of Human Services does not have legal authority to remove a child. If a removal is necessary, the Department must seek the assistance of law enforcement or obtain a court order.

### **What can I do if I disagree with a decision to reject the report of suspected child abuse?**

A child protective worker supervisor makes the decision to reject a report of suspected child abuse. If you disagree with the decision to reject a report, you may contact the child protective worker supervisor whose name and telephone number are listed on page one.