

Multi-Housing Crime Reduction Newsletter

for Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and Thurston County

Child Protective Services

April 2009

March's meeting featured a representative from Child Protective Services reviewing their reporting and investigation procedures.

Reporting

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call CPS's intake number.

Local (business hours) - (360) 725-6701

After hours—(800) 562-5624

State Hotline—(866) ENDHARM

Provide as much information as possible. Anonymous complaints or reports that don't indicate where the child can be found are not helpful. Also, the person witnessing the abuse should be the reporting party, not a third-hand source. In order to assist with their investigation, CPS requests that the suspect is not told they were called.

Investigation

All reports are reviewed for validity and probability during the intake process. All reports are tracked, whether they are further investigated or not. Referrals are assigned to a CPS investigator who must respond in 24 hours for emergency cases and in 72 hours for all cases. One of the first steps the investigator must take is face to face contact with the child. They must make a thorough assessment of the situation based on concrete, specific information. This is necessary to create a factual case for court proceedings. If a child is in imminent danger, CPS will request the assistance of law enforcement or a court order to remove the child.

Response

Responses vary depending upon the seriousness of the claim. Some incidents are resolved with a letter from the CPS investigator. CPS also connects families with services including family preservation, parenting and life skills. Parents can agree to voluntary placement of the child. CPS will place children with relatives who pass background checks and are supportive of the CPS plan. Foster parents are another alternative. Obviously, the court can ultimately remove children from the home.

Questions

Is there a law regarding the minimum age a child can be left alone?

No, there is not a specific age. However, leaving children alone when they are not able to care for themselves will be investigated as neglect.

What are some indicators of neglect or abuse?

Examples of these indicators can be found at the CPS website under this link:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/safety/abuseWhat.asp?2>

Contact Information:

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Housing Voucher Changes

The Thurston County Housing Authority has changed some of the requirements for their voucher program. One major change is the elimination of mandatory one year leases. For more information, please call their office at 753-8292.

Upcoming Events



Thursday, April 16th 12:30-1:30 PM

Regular monthly CRMH meeting Lacey City Hall (420 College St SE)

Jennifer Johnson from Thurston County Public Health will talk about creating healthy indoor environments, toxic chemicals and pesticides.

Note: Due to room restrictions, lunch will not be served

Sponsors Needed!

Do you regularly work with a vendor that may be interested in sponsoring lunches for one of the meetings? If so, please let Amy know. We have moved away from this practice for a while but budget restrictions may make it difficult for lunch to continue at our meetings unless we find a different way. In exchange for lunch, the vendor receives 10-15 minutes of time to speak to the group about their product or services.

