

Child Protective Services: Intake

2103.8 Reports of Parental Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse

Requirement

If a report includes allegations of parental substance abuse:

- Process the report according to the guidelines specified for the maltreatment type, if the report contains a specific allegation of child maltreatment. Document on Child Abuse/Neglect Intake Worksheet (Form 453) **all** information obtained regarding the alleged substance abuse.

Procedures/Practice Issues:

If the reporter alleges alcohol and/or other substance abuse, ask the following questions to further determine whether there is an allegation of maltreatment:

- What prompted you to call at this time?
- Have you ever seen the parent/caretaker use drugs? If not, why do you think that he/she is using drugs?
- What specific drugs are being used by the parent/caretaker?
- What is the frequency of the use of the drug?
- How often have you observed this behavior/situation?
- What effects on the children have you observed?
- Are the children with the parent/caretaker now?
- Are the children under the age of 13 years?
- Do you know if the children are missing school regularly?
- Have you observed the children alone in the home? Have you ever observed the children unattended outside the home? Are the children without supervision now? (**If Yes**, disposition as a neglect assessment (investigation))
- Do you have knowledge whether parent/caretaker has been arrested for alcohol or drugs? Have you observed regular visits from probation, police, and/or DFCS?
- Have you ever seen any drug paraphernalia (including beer/liquor containers) in or around the home?

Child Protective Services: Intake

- Have you ever known the parent to drive while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs?
- Have you ever seen the parents driving a vehicle while appearing to be intoxicated? If so, were the children in or around the vehicle?
- Have you seen the parents use drugs in the presence of the children?

Based on the cumulative responses to the questions above, consult with the supervisor to make a determination of whether maltreatment is indicated and an assessment (investigation) is warranted.