

Child Protective Services: Investigation

2104.35 a Abbreviated Investigations

Discussion

Any reported cases of abuse and neglect accepted for investigation may initially appear to require a thorough and complete investigation; however, after required actions by the case manager no information is found to support maltreatment as alleged or otherwise observed to the children, and there is no indicated risk to the children. These cases may be completed as an abbreviated investigation.

Exception: Abbreviated Investigations cannot be used in Special Investigations.

Requirement

An abbreviated investigation begins as a thorough investigation, but concludes as a shortened but complete investigation when ensuing investigative events determine that:

- The child is safe
- Abuse or neglect did not occur;
- Information collected leads to no concerns of any level risk at the end of the investigation; and
- Consideration is given to whether the family will benefit from a referral to available early intervention services.

Procedures/Procedures Issues

- Interview and observe separately each allegedly maltreated child within the assigned response time (see 2104.12 and 2104.13).
- Make every attempt to make the interview setting a private location where the child can be interviewed alone; (See 2104.11).
- Have a face-to-face interview with parents and with any other alleged maltreater. This includes all persons (mother, father, step-parent, boyfriend* or girlfriend,* etc.), who have primary and secondary caretaking responsibilities in the home. (See 2104.16).
- Observe and document all home and environmental conditions that might affect the health and safety of a child. (See 2104.13).
- Complete the Safety Assessment (See 2104.17).

After deciding to abbreviate the investigation, but before closing the investigation, it is determined safety and/or risk factors exist, the focus must change to a thorough investigation with required collaterals, safety plan and risk assessment.

Collateral contacts may be waived in unsubstantiated cases when there is clear and convincing evidence that maltreatment did not occur. When all components of the investigation have been

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completed, case documentation is documented on the Case Summary Closure Form, the 431 Child Abuse and Neglect Report is completed, the case is discussed in conference with the supervisor, and the supervisor approves closure of the abbreviated investigation.