

March 19, 2020

ND Dept of Human Svc – Child & Family Services Division
FAQs – Child Protection Services

Q1 I am concerned about a family that may not have enough food, baby formula, etc. Should I make a report of suspected child neglect?

No, a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is not appropriate unless you have a reasonable suspicion that a child is being abused or neglected. If family resources are deliberately being withheld from the children, this is reportable.

Q2 What should I do if I think a child is being abused or neglected at home?

Emergency situations should be called to local law enforcement. Reports of other suspected child abuse and neglect should be made by phone or mail to minimize person-to-person contact.

Many Zone offices are closed to the public due to health concerns, but staff are still working. Human Service Zones will continue to accept reports of suspected child abuse and neglect and will continue to respond timely to emergency situations along with community partners. There may be modifications to usual procedures, such as limited in-home contacts and more interviews conducted over the phone to help safeguard the health of staff and families.

Q3 What should I do if I have concerns that a family doesn't have the resources to care for their children?

Concerns for the well-being of children and families may warrant contact with the Human Service Zone office to inquire about available resources in the community.

Human Service Zone offices and staff are concerned for the well-being of families in their communities but may or may not have capacity or resources to respond directly. They can, however, often help direct people to community resources. Additionally, the Department of Human Services is making information about available resources through the Department's website and over the phone.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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