



Produced for the Nation
by the Ministry of Social Development
through Public Consultation

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**THIS BOOKLET REPRESENTS A POLICY WORKING DOCUMENT,
THAT WOULD INFORM LEGISLATIVE REFORM FOR CHILD
PROTECTION IN THE FUTURE**



Safeguarding Children in Anguilla



A Policy Guideline

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	2
Useful Phone Numbers	2
Safeguarding Children in Anguilla: A Policy Guideline	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Definition of the Child	3
3. Recognition of Child Abuse	4
3.1. Physical Abuse	4
3.2. Emotional Abuse	5
3.3. Sexual Abuse	5-6
Do's and Don'ts Chart	7-8
3.4 Neglect	9
4. Reporting a Concern or Suspicion	9
4.1. Keep a record and seek advice	10
4.2. Report concerns and or facts	10
4.3. Don't conduct your own enquiry or investigation	10
4.4. Confidentiality is crucial	11
4.5. What to do when someone discloses abuse to you	11
4.6. What to do if you are concerned about an adult's behaviour towards a child	12
5. Summary	12
6. What Happens when a Referral is made to the Department of Social Development	13
'No Excuse' Calypso	14

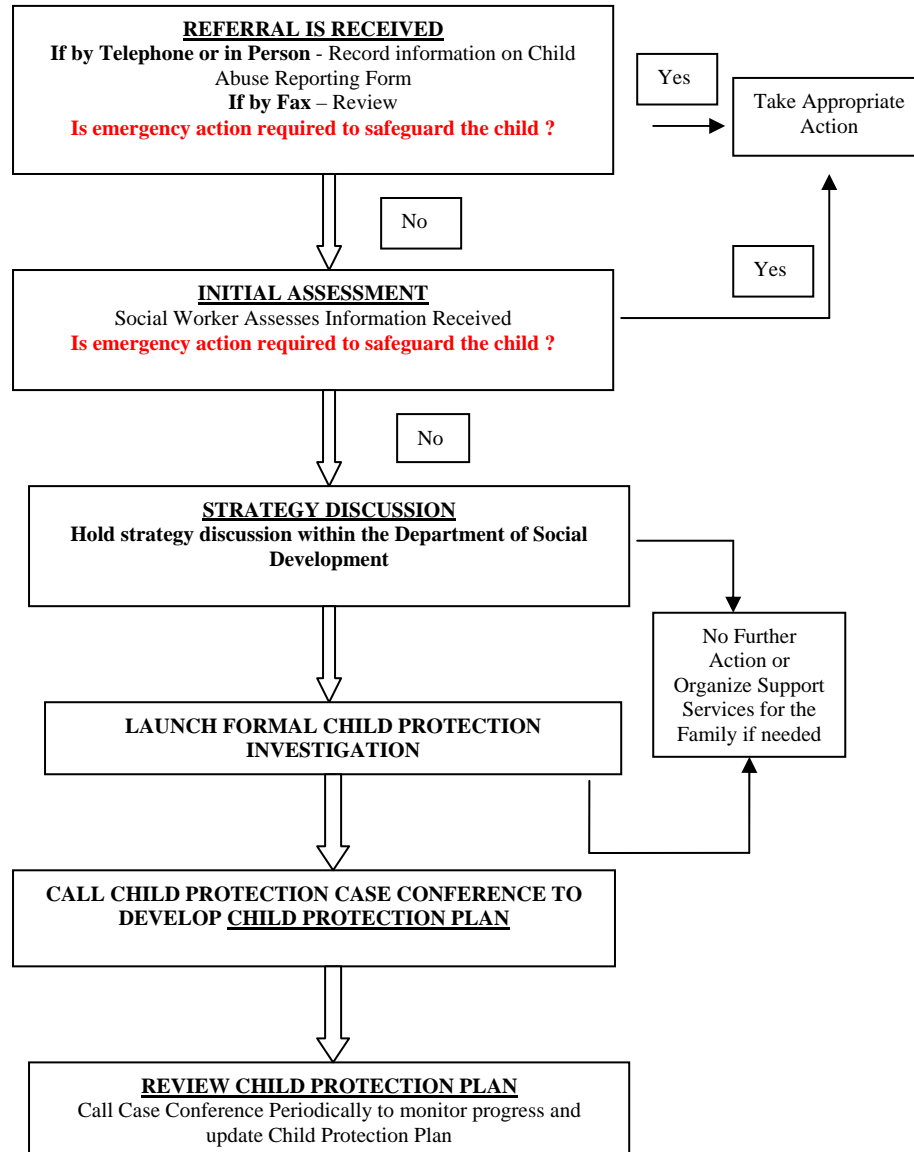
'NO EXCUSE' CALYPSO

<i>As adults you have been selected</i>	<i>It could not be anticipated</i>
<i>To care for the fruit of youth</i>	<i>That you would turn on your</i>
<i>As adults you are expected</i>	<i>young</i>
<i>To deal in honesty and truth</i>	<i>It cannot be overstated</i>
<i>As youngsters in your jurisdiction</i>	<i>Things have gone horribly wrong</i>
<i>We deserve your full protection</i>	<i>For before de flower start blooming</i>
<i>From de ills of de society</i>	<i>You can't wait so you inspecting</i>
<i>From all negativity</i>	<i>Fondling and manipulating</i>
<i>So when our efforts at being loyal</i>	<i>Conscious of what you're doing</i>
<i>Meet with deception and betrayal</i>	<i>And while you're concerned about</i>
<i>There must be a consequence</i>	<i>pleasure</i>
<i>For destroying our innocence</i>	<i>You threaten our very future</i>
REFRAIN	<i>It's time that you're made to pay</i>
<i>There is <u>NO EXCUSE</u></i>	<i>So there'd be no further decay</i>
<i>For any form of abuse</i>	<i>We cannot keep on protecting</i>
<i>Be it physical or sexual</i>	<i>Those who violate our trust</i>
<i>There can be <u>NO EXCUSE</u> at all</i>	<i>For those who are indulging</i>
<i>There is <u>NO EXCUSE</u></i>	<i>Full exposure is a must</i>
<i>For emotional abuse</i>	<i>Irrespective of their position</i>
<i>And for your negligence</i>	<i>Once they engage in this action</i>
<i>There must be firm recompense</i>	<i>There should not be any question</i>
<i>If our land hopes to be free</i>	<i>They must face incarceration</i>
<i>From this growing iniquity</i>	<i>We must not be silent any longer</i>
<i>Then we simply have to refuse</i>	<i>If we're to secure our future</i>
<i>Every EXCUSE for abuse</i>	<i>Then we must work together</i>
	<i>To eradicate this cancer</i>

**Written by Mr. Bernard B. Wattley
Sung by Miss Roxanne L. Webster (Lil Roxxy)**

6. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A REFERRAL IS MADE TO DSD

CHILD PROTECTION POST REFERRAL ACTION FLOWCHART



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of a Child Protection Protocol in Anguilla is indeed a step in the right direction towards encouraging us as a nation to be sensitive to the issue of safeguarding all children in Anguilla.

A hearty thank you is extended to all stakeholders whose contributions are invaluable: the frontline workers, managers, volunteers and interested individuals from government departments/agencies; non-governmental organisations, private institutions and establishments. The combined level of participation was outstanding and the perspectives expressed are captured in this publication.

Many thanks are also extended to the Department for International Development (DfID), the Safeguarding Children in the Overseas Territories (SCOT) project and The Ministry of Social Development for partnering to conduct the necessary consultations and funding the development of the Child Protection Protocol and this abbreviated policy guideline.

This guideline will be beneficial to all children living in Anguilla; their parents; professionals, practitioners, and volunteers who work with children; and civil society at large.

Let us all as stakeholders in the healthy advancement of Anguilla as a nation continue to work together to shape a positive future for our children.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Department of Social Development (DSD)	Tel: 497-2317 / 497-5917 Fax: 497-2326
Department of Social Development (On Call)	Tel: 235-2317 / 476-4528
Royal Anguilla Police Force (RAPF)	Tel: 497-2333
Emergency	911

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN ANGUILLA: ABBREVIATED GUIDE

1. INTRODUCTION

You should follow these guidelines

These guidelines are an abbreviated form of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Protocols and Procedures agreed by the Government of Anguilla through consultation with all stakeholders (agencies and departments in the public and private sector) who work with children.

The guidelines are intended for civil society and all staff and volunteers, in Health, Police, Education, Social Development, Tourism and other organisations/establishments who work with children. This policy guideline booklet works in tandem with the Child Abuse Reporting Form available for official use only.

Across the world, inquiries into the deaths, serious injury and harm to children and young people resulting from abuse have repeatedly reached two major findings regarding the failures of professionals which might have prevented these tragedies:

- An ignorance of and /or failure to follow agreed procedures
- Breakdowns and failures in communication between different departments/agencies

By following these guidelines it should be possible to ensure that these failures do not occur on Anguilla.

2. DEFINITION OF THE CHILD

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) a child is a person who is under 18, unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier. In Anguilla the age of majority is 18. Therefore, **in Anguilla a child is any person who is under the age of 18.**

3. RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or failing to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. The possible indicators of abuse given below are not exhaustive, and obviously many of them will have causes other than

discussed it with somebody with the experience and responsibility to make an assessment.

4.6 If the behaviour of an adult (including colleagues and members of the public) towards children causes you concern:

- Do not dismiss your concerns.
- Do not confront the person about whom you have concerns.
- If it is a person with responsibility for children discuss your concerns with that person's Supervisor. If you feel that this is inappropriate, or you are not satisfied with the response that you get, contact the relevant person in your organisation/establishment or contact the DSD. It is very important that you do not ignore or dismiss suspicions about another professional, colleague, or a member of the public.

5. SUMMARY

- ❖ The welfare and safety of the child is the paramount consideration.
- ❖ All staff and volunteers working with children should be aware of the signs and indicators of possible abuse.
- ❖ All staff and volunteers should record concerns, consult with others, and refer to the Department of Social Development.
- ❖ Staff and Volunteers should know how to respond to disclosures of abuse.
- ❖ A clear, accurate and concise record should be kept of all concerns.
- ❖ All agencies must co-operate and share information on matters of Safeguarding and Child Protection.

4.4 Confidentiality is of great importance in dealing with child protection matters. Lack of confidence in the confidentiality of the system and the professionals responsible for running it can form a powerful disincentive to referring legitimate concerns, with consequent dangers for children. The need for strict confidentiality needs to be understood by all those involved, administrative and clerical staff as well as front-line workers. The observance of confidentiality is a condition of employment.



4.5 If someone tells you that they or another child is being abused:

1. Show that you have heard what they are saying and that you take their allegations seriously.
2. Encourage the child to talk, but do not prompt or ask leading questions. Don't interrupt when the child is recalling significant events. Don't make the child repeat their account.
3. Explain what actions you must take, in a way which is appropriate to their age and understanding.
4. Do not promise to keep what you have been told secret, as you have a responsibility to disclose information to those who need to know. **Reporting concerns is not a betrayal of trust.**
5. Write down what you have been told, using the exact words if possible.
6. Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.
7. Report your concerns to your Supervisor or if appropriate, the person in your organisation/establishment with the designated responsibility for child protection.
8. Ensure that your concerns are immediately reported to the Department of Social Development (during working hours) or the On Call Social Worker (if at a time when the office is closed). Do not delay.
9. Do not confront the alleged abuser.
10. Do not worry that you may be mistaken. **You will always be taken seriously by the Department of Social Development.** It is better to have

abuse, but they are indicators that all staff and volunteers working with children should keep in mind.

3.1. Physical Abuse:

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. A parent or caregiver may sometimes feign or deliberately cause ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This is known as fabricated or induced illness by caregiver.



On his way to work one day, Social Worker, Mr. Gumbs saw a primary school child walking in the direction where he was travelling. Mr. Gumbs decided to give the child a lift as far as his workplace which would put the child closer to school. While talking with the child he noticed a fresh scratch on the side of the child's neck and asked him how he got it. The child replied "mar do it".

"How come she scratched you?" Gumbs asked.

"I take something out de barrel". The child explained that his mother grabbed him by his neck, threw him to the floor and put her foot on his chest and told him that she was going to kill him because he would not stop stealing.

Upon investigation, Mr. Gumbs discovered that the mother was frustrated, had recently had a miscarriage and was depressed. The barrel was sent by the father of the baby she lost. She suffered the ordeal and due to financial circumstances did not visit the clinic since the miscarriage.

The children who at times had to do without several meals per week, found it difficult to restrain themselves from taking things from the barrels which came occasionally, while their mother tried to stretch the contents of the barrel as far as possible. They often were caught sneaking things from the barrel.

The punishment was excessive and inappropriate. It was done while she was frustrated and angry. She said that she was going to kill the child.

'There are many other examples...'

3.2. Emotional Abuse:

Emotional abuse may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in as far as they meet the needs



of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed upon children. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

John's mother died when he was 7 years old. He was adopted by a lady who volunteered to take care of him. Based on the initial assessment the lady qualified to adopt the child. She was a respectable family and community person who had previously raised at least one child that was not a member of her family. John was very quiet and kept to himself most of the time. He grew up in the community and from all appearances he was being raised well. One day when John was about 13 he confided in someone. He said no one in his family ever told him that they loved him, or gave him a hug. He said that he was made to do all the chores in the house; he was told that he was ugly. He was called a "good for nothing" many times and was told all he was good for was to eat.

Deprived of love, called ugly, exploited as a worker, accused of only wanting to eat.

'There are many other examples ...'

3.3. Sexual Abuse:

- Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or a young person to take part in sexual activities whether or not the child is aware what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact including penetrative or non-penetrative acts, non-contact activities such as involving a child in viewing pornography, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.



- 4.1 Anyone who has concerns about a child's or children's welfare should make a written record of their concerns and action whether or not further action is taken (see section 6 of these guidelines).

If possible the person raising the concern should seek advice from colleagues, supervisors, managers, a designated or named professional within their agency or establishment or from other agencies; **but this discussion should never delay emergency action to protect the child or be used as a substitute for a referral where a concern exists.**

- 4.2 'Concerns' and or 'facts' should be shared with the Department of Social Development and this should be done via a referral. While concerns may not trigger an investigation in themselves, they may help to build a picture, along with concerns from other sources, which suggests that a child may be suffering harm.

In many serious child abuse cases, subsequent investigations have shown that a number of different agencies had concerns about a child's welfare which they did not share with other agencies or refer to Social Development. Earlier referral and sharing of information might have prevented a child's suffering.

- 4.3 Every agency, organisation, or establishment that works with children has a responsibility for the protection of children and all staff members/volunteers have a duty to report concerns. **Suspected abuse should be reported to the Department of Social Development.** The Department of Social Development will work closely with the Royal Anguilla Police Force. **Departments, agencies, organisations, or establishments must not conduct their own internal enquiries, but should make a referral as described above.**

They **must not** make their own decisions about whether a concern that involves a particular member of their own staff (employees or volunteers) is a disciplinary issue or a child protection matter. Such considerations should only take place with the involvement of the Department of Social Development and the Royal Anguilla Police Force should the latter be part of the particular investigation.



3.4 Neglect:

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. It may involve a parent or caregiver failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing; failure to protect a

child from physical harm or danger; failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care and neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

A five year old child was observed playing in a neighbourhood from around twelve, noon, until sunset (5:30 PM). When the other children in the village retired to their homes the child went to his home but was heard crying. After this persisted a neighbour went over to enquire what was wrong. The child was home alone. He said that his mother left earlier the day and did not return. The neighbour referred the matter to the Department of Social Development. Further investigations resulted in reports that the child's mother left him from around 11:00 am that day and up to 9:00 pm the night his mother did not return. It was discovered that this had happened on more than one occasion before.

This child missed at least 2 meals, and was left without adult supervision for approximately 10 hours that particular day.

'There are many other examples ...'

4. REPORTING A CONCERN OR A SUSPICION

If any person has knowledge, concerns or a suspicion that a child is suffering, has suffered or is likely to be at risk of harm; they should ensure that their concerns are referred to the Department of Social Development.

Fourteen (14) year old Jane visited the Principals office. She reported that she and two of her girlfriends were walking home through a back road and an older boy from school (16 years) suddenly jumped out of the bushes. They all ran but he ran behind them; grabbed her and pulled her into the bushes at the side of the road. He then started pulling on her blouse until it ripped. He pressed his body against hers while touching her on her breast and trying to force his hand up between her thighs. She kept screaming - begging him to stop while squeezing her legs together. After some struggle he suddenly jumped up and ran off leaving her on the ground. She got up in time to see her two friends coming towards her. They all decided not to say anything about it.

She hurried home where she took a bath put away her dirty uniform and retired to her room, avoiding any conversations with her parents and siblings when they arrived home later that evening. She just told them that she was feeling tired. However, what happened to her kept playing over and over in her mind and she felt she needed to talk to someone who would listen and not be angry or judge her.

After telling the Principal what happened, the principal explained that the person tried to rape her; that it was against the law; and that she needed to help her to report the matter.

The decision was made to involve the Department of Social Development to assist the client in explaining to her parents what happened, with referring the matter to the RAPF, and with further counselling.

This child was indecently assaulted. She was touched on her breast and her crotch. Her abuser forced his body against hers in a sexually aggressive manner. This was all done against her will. She is 14 years old and cannot give consent to sexual intercourse.

'There are many other examples ...'

Do's and Don'ts

If you are concerned that a child is suffering significant harm, or may be at risk of significant harm:

What you should do :	What you should not do :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members of the public should contact the Department of Social Development ✓ If someone tells you that they or another child is being abused, encourage them to talk, show that you've heard what they're saying and that you take their allegations seriously ✓ Staff should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write down what they have noticed or been told, making a note of the date, time, place and people present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not worry that you may be mistaken. You will always be taken seriously by the DSD. Sometimes a number of minor concerns from different sources can reveal an abusive situation that would have otherwise been missed ✗ If someone tells you that they or another child is being abused, don't interrupt, ask leading questions or make a child repeat their account

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report their concerns to their Supervisor or, if appropriate, the person in their agency/ organisation/establishment with designated responsibility for child protection • Ensure that the Child Abuse Reporting Form is completed and faxed to the DSD and that phone contact is made with a DSD Social Worker immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not promise to keep what you have been told secret. You have a responsibility and a duty to disclose information to the DSD. Reporting concerns is not a betrayal of trust ✗ Do not confront the alleged or suspected abuser ✗ Do not attempt to investigate the allegations yourself ✗ Do not discuss the situation outside the process of consultation and referral (e.g. with family or friends)
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