

# ***Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP)***

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
ADDICTIONS, DRUG & ALCOHOL INSTITUTE  
(206) 543-7155

## **ABUSE/NEGLECT PROTOCOL**

### **IDENTIFYING, MANDATED REPORTING, & DOCUMENTING**

Adapted from Washington State RCW 26.44

#### **POLICY**

All Parent-Child Assistance Program (PCAP) staff, including clinical supervisors and ASI interviewers, must report instances of suspected or obvious abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or to Washington State Department of Youth and Family Services (DCYF) at the first opportunity (but no longer than 48 hours after identified), including:

- instances of nonaccidental injury, neglect, death, sexual abuse and cruelty to children by their parents, custodians or guardians, and instances where a child is deprived of his or her right to conditions of minimal nurture, health, and safety; and
- the willful action or inaction that inflicts injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment on a vulnerable adult.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

##### **Child**

Any person under the age of eighteen (18) years.

##### **Abuse**

Sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or injury of a child by any person under circumstances which cause harm to the child's health, welfare, or safety, or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for or providing care to the child.

##### **Negligent Treatment or Maltreatment**

An act or a failure to act, or the cumulative effects of a pattern of conduct, behavior, or inaction, that evidences a serious disregard of consequences of such magnitude as to constitute a clear and present danger to a child's health, welfare, or safety. When considering whether a clear and present danger exists, evidence of a parent's substance abuse as a contributing factor to negligent treatment or maltreatment shall be given great weight. Poverty, homelessness, or exposure to domestic violence that is perpetrated against someone other than the child does not constitute negligent treatment or maltreatment in and of itself.

##### **Unreasonable Use of Force on Children**

- Throwing, kicking, burning, or cutting a child;

- striking a child with a closed fist;
- shaking a child under age three;
- interfering with a child's breathing;
- threatening a child with a deadly weapon; or
- doing any other act that is likely to cause and which does cause bodily harm greater than transient pain or minor temporary marks.

### **Endangerment with a controlled substance**

Knowingly or intentionally permitting a dependent child or dependent adult to be exposed to, ingest, inhale, or have contact with methamphetamine or ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or with substances that are being used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers.

### **Exploitation**

- (a) Allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution by any person; or  
 (b) Allowing, permitting, encouraging, or engaging in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child by any person.

### **Vulnerable Adult**

- A person sixty (60) years of age or older who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to care for himself or herself.
- Found incapacitated under RCW 11.88 state guardianship laws; or
- Who has developmental disability as defined under RCW 71a.10.020; or
- Admitted to any facility; or
- Receiving services from home health, hospice, or home care agencies licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW; or
- Receiving services from an individual provider.

(<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=74.34.020> lists definitions of abandonment, abuse, exploitation, sexual, physical and mental abuse of vulnerable adults.)

## **PROCEDURE**

1. The PCAP worker will report all instances of nonaccidental abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children and vulnerable adults to DCYF. If the PCAP worker witnesses abuse/neglect in her presence, where she deems the safety of the child or vulnerable adult to be at immediate risk, the PCAP worker will contact the police immediately.
2. The PCAP worker will make a report verbally on the phone. The 24-hour statewide toll-free number for abuse reporting is: **1-866-END-HARM**. You will be connected directly to the appropriate local office to report suspected child or vulnerable adult abuse or neglect.
3. The PCAP worker will document in the subject's case file any report made to the proper authorities, and any follow-up referral(s) made to other care providers and/or community agencies. The PCAP worker will notify the clinical supervisor of any report made.
4. Reporting domestic violence is at the discretion of the victim and any witnesses (not the PCAP worker). Information about shelters and alternatives to domestic violence is available from a Washington statewide toll-free 24-hour hot line at 1-800-799-7233.