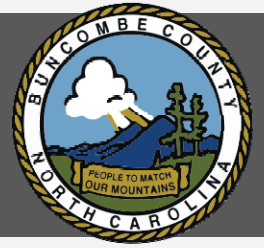


CHILD DAY CARE INVESTIGATIVE ASSESSMENTS



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES**
BUNCOMBECOUNTY.ORG/HHS

WHAT IS A CHILD CARE INVESTIGATIVE ASSESSMENT?

In all cases in which a child care facility is licensed by the Division of Child Development, it is subject to a child protective services (CPS) investigative assessment. Because the definition of caretaker (G.S. 7B-517) includes child care homes and facilities, the law requires the investigation of reports of abuse, neglect or dependency in child care facilities

According to North Carolina law, a child day care investigative assessment by HHS includes:

- G.S. 7B-542 mandates HHS screen reports of abuse, neglect or dependency of children.
- A determination of whether the allegations meet the definitions of abuse, neglect or dependency as provided in NC General Statute.
- Whether the child care arrangement meets the definition of a child care home or facility as set forth in the NC General Statute.
- Whether the parents or guardians of the alleged victim (s) have acted responsibly for protecting their child.

What is the role of the Child Abuse/Neglect Unit, Division of Child Development?

An investigation conducted by the Division of Child Development focuses on the functioning of the child care operation. This differs from the local HHS focus on the victim child/children. Both departments' investigations/assessments are jointly conducted.

Responsibilities of child day care facilities

If and when an administrator refuses to cooperate with the local HHS in an investigative assessment, HHS may petition the court under G.S. 7B-544.1 (Interference with an investigation).

Examples of non-cooperation would be the refusal to



allow access to the property, a refusal to provide information specific to staff children, or a refusal to allow interviews with staff and/or children on site.

Completion of an Investigative Assessment

Once the assessment is complete (inclusive of a two level decision with the social worker and social work supervisor), the local HHS must conduct a review of the findings with the operator of the child care setting. If the decision is made to substantiate abuse, neglect or dependency, the Department will provide recommendations for prevention of further abuse, neglect or dependency.

INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION

Reports alleging abuse must be initiated by the Department within 24 hours of receipt of the information. Reports alleging neglect must be initiated within 72 hours.

The Department must contact the individual who is administratively responsible for the on-site operation of the child care setting. This individual should not be given prior notice of the investigation. The required notification should be made at the time of the investigative assessor's (social worker) first contact with the child care arrangement.

The local HHS must notify the Division of Child Development within 24 hours (or next working day) following the receipt of the report (G.S. 7B-548) and the parents of the alleged victim children as quickly as possible.

If at any point during the investigative assessment process HHS finds information that a child has been abused or neglected in the child care setting, they must immediately notify the Division of Child Development.

If HHS finds that a child may have been abused in a child care setting within the county, they must notify the local District Attorney.

If a child resides/is found in another county and that county obtains information that the child was abused in a child care setting in another county, they must notify the local HHS in the county where the child care is located.

NC General Statutes 7B-302 and 303 discusses the Department's right to have personal access to children involved in a CPS-IA as well as the ability to interview them privately without parental consent or presence.

HOW ARE REPORTS OF ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE HANDLED?

If allegations of sexual abuse arise during an investigative assessment, Health & Human Services is mandated to report to the State Bureau

**AFTER HOURS
EMERGENCY**

OR

MAKE A REPORT

(828) 250-5900

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME



BUNCOMBE COUNTY
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of Investigation immediately – separate and apart from notification to local law enforcement.

In any investigative assessment of a child care setting, the local HHS must conduct a visit to the center. HHS must also interview face to face the alleged perpetrator as well as talk to anyone who was identified by the reporter as having information regarding the allegations.

In all CPS investigative assessments, HHS has thirty (30) days from the receipt of the report to complete. However, if all mandated steps cannot be completed within this time frame, HHS must document the reason for the delay within the investigative assessment record.

Social Worker:

Phone Number:

Supervisor:

Supervisor Number:

Partnering with our community to
strengthen our health, safety and
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35 Woodfin Street
Asheville, NC 28801



SOCIAL WORK SERVICES: (828) 250-5900
ECONOMIC SERVICES: (828) 250-5500
HEALTH SERVICES: (828) 250-5000



VISIT
buncombecounty.org/HHS

Additional Resources



Call **2-1-1** or visit nc211.org
to find out about other local resources.



Apply for **Medicaid** and **Food Assistance**
online at ePASS.NC.GOV

Other Services we provide...

WIC
Immunizations/Travel Vaccines
Nurse Family Partnership
Work First Employment Services
Disease Control
Free and Reduced School
Lunches
Low Income Energy Assistance
Program (LIEAP)
Food Assistance
Family and Children's Medicaid
Child Care Subsidy
STD/HIV Testing
Emergency Assistance

Interpreter services available at no cost

Servicios de intérprete están disponibles sin costo alguno
Услуги переводчика предоставляются бесплатно
If you have problems getting interpreter help, please call
Title VI Compliance Officer at 828-250-5587

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