
**NEVADA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



CORONER'S DIRECTIVE

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**Effective Date ~~05/30/99~~
2/6/18**

SUBJECT **CHILD ABUSE**

POLICY To establish an investigative procedure for the handling of suspected child abuse cases

PURPOSE To provide the investigator with information and guidelines for the investigation of possible child abuse deaths

CODE REFERENCE

CASE LAW

DEFINITIONS

PROCEDURE

A. Suggested Questions and Observations for Possible Child Abuse

1. Always bear in mind the postmortem changes in death are faster with children than adults. It is necessary to ask questions if there is any doubt regarding the condition of the body. If you suspect the possibility of child abuse or maltreatment, the investigations division's sergeant should be notified promptly.
2. If a child has obvious injuries, was the child taken to the doctor or hospital? If so, to which facility or physician was the child taken?
3. How did the injury occur?
 - a. If a fall, how far did the child fall, and was the fall witnessed?
 - b. Onto what surface?
 - c. Where did the impact occur?
 - d. Did the child fall more than once?

- e. Did the child sustain multiple impacts?
4. If there are other children in the household, a glance may tell you if they also have sustained any mistreatment.
5. Full-body x-rays are to be taken in all deaths of children under three years of age, and in all cases of suspected child abuse. This may need to be done at a local hospital prior to being taken to the morgue; there may be an associated cost.

B. Helpful Clues to Maltreatment

Deputy coroner must examine the body and know what he/she is seeing:

1. Bilateral multiplicity of injuries
2. Varying ages of the injuries (very important)
3. Disparity of injuries with explanation
4. Delay in treatment of injuries
5. Indifference to the severity of the injuries
6. Talk to neighbors

C. General Reporting Procedure

1. Any deaths resulting from physical abuse, evidence of prior physical abuse or severe neglect, a Form SS 8583 must be submitted to the Attorney General's Child Protection Program. If the death occurs after an initial Form SS 8583 has been submitted nby another entity, the coroner must submit a supplemental Form SS 8583 indicating the change to the initial form.