

**Indiana WIC Program  
Indiana State Department of Health**

**Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect**

**Policy**

State of Indiana juvenile code requires an individual report to the local Indiana Department of Child Services/Child Protective Services (CPS) office when there is reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect. WIC regulations allow for this disclosure of confidential applicant or client information to the extent necessary to comply with state laws pertaining to the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect.

**Authority**

Indiana Code: IC 31-33-5 Duty to report; IC 31-9-2-14 "Child abuse or neglect"; IC 31-34-1 Circumstances under which a child is a Child in Need of Services  
7 CFR Part 246.26(d)(3)

**Procedures**

- I. CPS **must** be contacted:
  - A. when a minor applicant/client
    - reports him/herself, or is reported by someone else, to be physically or sexually abused;
    - displays physical characteristics and/or emotional behavior and/or has medical indicators that are symptomatic of physical or sexual abuse;
  - B. any time a prenatal/postpartum mother is < 14 years of age (no minor under the age of 14 can consent to anything); or
  - C. when a prenatal mother is  $\geq$  14 and <16 years of age and the alleged father is 18 years of age or older (the age of consent in the state of Indiana is 16).
  - D. any time a child is determined to be a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) under IC 31-34-1.
- II. Reporting should be handled through the local agency legal counsel or local agency director.

- III. The State WIC Office must be contacted when CPS has been called regarding a case of suspected abuse or neglect
- IV. The local agency should contact the local Indiana Child Protective Services (CPS) for staff training on how to detect and when to report child abuse and neglect.

Specific code can be found at [www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/](http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/)