

# Collaborative Community Team Members in Child Protective Services Investigations

## Law Enforcement Officer

- Responds to calls, stabilizes the crime scene, takes initial statements, as appropriate
- Conducts criminal history records checks on alleged offenders
- Collects evidence, ensures protection of evidence and proper chain of custody
- Interviews child victims, witnesses and alleged perpetrator
- Facilitates the use of technological investigative tools, such as monitored telephone conversations
- Apprehends alleged perpetrators, when appropriate, and conducts investigative interviews and interrogations
- Takes the alleged child victim into protective custody, when necessary to protect the child
- Testifies in court
- Protects workers during investigative interviews, if necessary
- Seizes, protects and keeps evidence

## County Prosecutor or Agency Attorney

- Actively participates in developing the overall investigative strategy for the case
- Assesses evidence to determine its potential utility in court
- Assists in drafting search warrants
- Requests restraining orders for the alleged perpetrator
- Reviews evidence and files petitions of juvenile court for the removal of children
- Participates in interviews with alleged perpetrators and alleged victims, when appropriate
- Provides guidance on legal issues

- Determines appropriate charges and the best means of charging (i.e. arrest vs. grand jury)
- Prepares witnesses for court or oversees a program for preparing children for court
- Presents the State’s case at trial
- While child protective services, the prosecutor, and law enforcement are the principle members of most investigative teams, there are three other entities that are often involved in the investigation of child maltreatment

### **Children’s Hospital or Other Qualified Medical Staff**

These medical staff examine and treat children who have been maltreated. Workers should get to know the trained professionals in their area and become familiar with their protocol. Workers should utilize these professionals in cases where evidence collection is needed. In addition, medical staff do the following:

- Report suspected cases of maltreatment as mandated reporters
- Interpret medical findings for the investigative team
- Record statements made by alleged child victims during the examination
- Preserve physical evidence secured during the examination (i.e., semen) or any photographs taken of injuries

### **Mental Health Professionals**

- Assist in the interpretation of psychological information received by the team
- Make treatment recommendations for children
- Conduct psychological and/or psychiatric assessments of children

### **Schools**

School personnel are one of the most frequent sources of reports to the Kansas Protection Report Center regarding child maltreatment. While they do not play an active role in the investigation process, they often cooperate with the investigation by providing access to the alleged child victim and a location for the interview. When interviewing a child at school, form PPS 2000, “Request to Interview a Child at School” should be presented to the school administrator. It include information from K.S.A 38-2212(c) and 38-2226(g). As mandated reporters, they may request notification of whether the report was assigned for investigation and/or assessment.