

# Thorold Soccer Club

## Suspicion of Child Abuse and Inappropriate Behaviours Policy

This policy describes reporting protection concerns under the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA), including: the duty to report, making the report, and case consultations.

### 1. Duty to Report

- Any person, including professionals working directly with children, who has reasonable grounds to suspect child protection concerns, has an obligation to immediately report the suspicion and the information on which it is based, to the CAS. Proof is not required in order to report a concern to the CAS that a child may be in need of protection.
- Once a person has made a report to the CAS, that person has an ongoing duty to report. The person is required to contact the CAS each time they become aware of additional information.
- It is the duty of the person who has the suspicions to directly make the report to the CAS and not to have another person make the report for them.
- A person who performs professional duties or official duties with respect to children include the following: health care professionals, physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, psychologists, teachers, principals, social workers, family counselors, priests, rabbis, members of the clergy, operators or employees of a day nursery or child care centre, youth and recreation workers, peace officers, coroners, solicitors, service providers and employees of a service provider.
- Professionals, as defined above, could be subject to a fine if they do not report protection concerns.
- The CAS is available to respond to allegations of child protection 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

### 2. Case Consultations

The CAS provides consultation service to the community. In situations where a person has concerns for a child, but is not sure as to what warrants a report of suspected abuse or neglect under the law, that person shall seek an immediate consultation. During a consultation, when CAS determines the information is legally reportable, identifying information must be provided as per Duty to Report. Identifying information may still be requested in an effort to maintain a record of the concerns. When information arises with regards to a historical abuse of a child (eg. the incident occurred months or years previous to the information becoming available) a report must still be made to the CAS immediately upon receipt of the information.

### 3. What you need when making the report to CAS

When a professional has reason to suspect a child has and/or is at risk of being abused/neglected, the professional shall report the information to the CAS forthwith. The following information will be requested when a report is made to the CAS.

A report to the CAS can still be made even when the reporter does not have all the information.

- Name of child
- Date of birth
- Religion and Language
- Address and Telephone Number
- Names of parents and contact telephone numbers
- Names and ages of siblings
- Specific information with regards to the concerns

Any other relevant information to assist the Team to conduct a sensitive, customized response to the child (i.e. child's behaviour, previous communication with caregivers, family's strengths/supports)

#### 4. Response to Confidential Reports and Third Party Reporting

A confidential and third party report to CAS shall be accorded equal weight as a non-confidential report. It is expected professionals, who are fulfilling their legal obligation to report, will provide their identifying information to the CAS. The Child Protection Worker will encourage the caller to provide identifying information such as their name and telephone number which may further assist the investigation. The identifying information will be kept confidential by CAS unless compelled to release it due to a court order or proceeding.

#### 5. Feedback to the Referral Source

At the time of reporting a child protection concern to a Children's Aid Society, the referral source will be asked whether they would like notification of the conclusion of the investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, the CAS worker may request signed consent, from caregiver(s), to exchange information with professional referral sources. The release of personal information about the child, family or alleged offender is limited, without the written consent of that person(s). Where written consents are available, the Team may share pertinent information with the referral source.