

CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect

This policy has been written to demonstrate the strong commitment of Adelaide Training and Employment Centre Inc (ATEC) management, employees, contractors and volunteers to ensure the safety, care and protection of all children accessing its services. We, ATEC will not tolerate incidents of child abuse or neglect.

Commitment to safety of young people

All young people who access ATEC services have a right to feel and be safe. The safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our services will always be our first priority.

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, young people, visitors and individuals who access ATEC services. The ATEC website (www.atec.asn.au) publishes the procedures to be followed when personal contact is required as part of the training.

Young people's rights to safety and participation

ATEC management, employees and volunteers encourage young people to express their views, to make suggestions, and to 'have a say' especially on matters that directly affect young people and about those things that are important to them. We value diversity and to not tolerate any discriminatory practices.

We will listen to and act on any concerns young people, their parents, or their carers raise with us.

Recruitment of employees, contractors and volunteers

ATEC incorporates child safe screening practices in the recruitment and selection of employees, contractors and volunteers, including conducting criminal history assessments. ATEC provides support and supervision so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. ATEC also provides training about how make appropriate reports of abuse or neglect in accordance with the flow chart below.

The ATEC Child Safe Environments Code provides additional guidance for our people, all of whom acknowledge the requirements of the code. They are aware that a person does not necessarily exhaust his or her duty of care to a child by making a report to the Child Abuse Line – they may still have a role in supporting the child or young person.

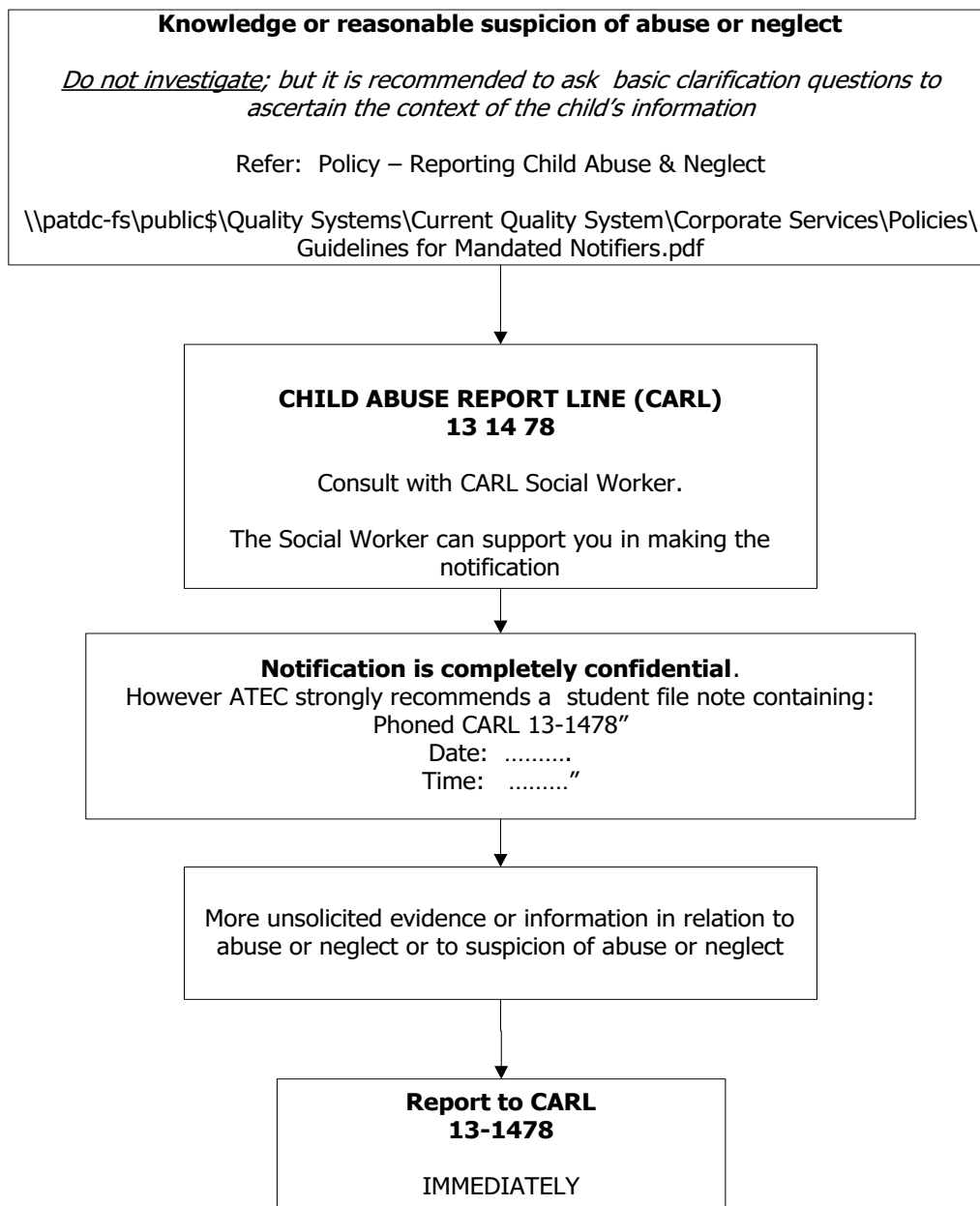
A person may also report any form of abuse to the Chief Executive Officer for further support or to ensure that ATEC takes all reasonable steps to keep the child and others safe.

ATEC will support any of its people who make a report to the Child Abuse Report Line.

ATEC also has a responsibility to its people to defend their right to confidentiality.

Lynne Austin
Chief Executive Officer

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Further information and guidance is available from the relevant Department web site

<http://www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/>

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DEFINITIONS

Child (Young person) – A child means a person under 18 years of age (The Children's Protection Act 1993).

Child Abuse – Children can be abused in different ways and child abuse includes a wide range of acts of omission and commission. The following is based on definitions in "Guidelines for Mandated Notifiers", produced by Government of South Australia – Department for Families and Communities.

Physical Abuse – is commonly characterized by physical injury resulting from practices such as hitting, punching, kicking (marks from belt buckles, fingers); shaking (particularly young babies); burning (irons, cigarettes), biting, pulling out hair; alcohol or other drug administration.

Sexual Abuse – occurs when someone in a position of power to the child uses his/her power to involve the child in sexual activity. Behaviour can include sexual suggestion; exhibitionism, mutual masturbation, oral sex; showing pornographic material e.g. DVDs, internet; using children in the production of pornographic material; penile or other penetration of the genital or anal region; child prostitution.

Emotional Abuse – tends to be a chronic behavioural pattern directed at a child whereby a child's self esteem and social competence are undermined or eroded over time. Behaviours may include devaluing, ignoring, rejecting, corrupting, isolating, terrorising, chronic or extreme domestic violence in the children's presence.

Neglect – is characterized by the failure to provide for the child's basic needs. Behaviours may include inadequate supervision of young children for long periods of time; failure to provide adequate nutrition, clothing or personal hygiene; failure to provide needed or appropriate health care/medical treatment; disregard for potential hazards in the home; forcing the child to leave home early; allowing children to engage in chronic truancy.

Criminal history assessment: a decision about whether a person is suitable to work with children based on the person's criminal history (if any) and the assessed risk of harm to children who receive the service.

Trainer – any person over the age of 18 who is employed by ATEC and is responsible for the care and safety of children in a recognized training course delivered under the ATEC name.

Young person – term used instead of the word child, to describe a person under the age of 18.