

## 63880 Indecent Images of Children Offences

Aim: to explore how a child is protected from future harm after a parental guardian is suspected of an Indecent Images of Children offence by police.

NOTE: this is regarding children who are not thought to have been a direct victim of intra-familial child sexual abuse by a parent.

Which category would a parent accessing online Indecent Images of Children be logged under within the social services data management system?

Our case management system does not record a category against a parent. Instead, the child would be recorded as being at risk of sexual abuse/harm.

After receiving a police safeguarding referral in relation to a person that shares their primary residence with a child and has placed under investigation for an Indecent Images of Children offence, how quickly would the non-suspect parental guardian be contacted by social services in the following circumstances?:

- a) Suspect held on remand.
- b) Suspect arrested and bailed to an alternative address.
- c) Suspect bailed with conditions that limits contact with children under 18.
- d) Suspect released under investigation without bail conditions

This timescale is not explicitly stated in procedure. Decisions about timescales to inform a non-offending parent/guardian will be individual to the child and based on the risk to the child. If the suspect has been arrested in relation to an Indecent Images of Children offence and ordinarily resides in the home with the child then the non-offending parent/guardian will be contacted as a priority to ensure they are aware of the nature of the concern and potential risk to the child.

Where an Indecent Images of Children offence suspect has parental responsibility and an established shared custody arrangement for a child whose primary residence is elsewhere, how quickly after the police safeguarding referral is received would the primary parental guardian expect to be contacted by social services in the following circumstances?:

- a) Suspect held on remand
- b) Suspect bailed with conditions that limits contact with children under 18.
- c) Suspect released under investigation without bail conditions

This timescale is not explicitly stated in procedure. Decisions about timescales to inform a non-offending parent/guardian will be individual to the child and based on the risk to the child. If the suspect has been arrested in relation to an Indecent Images of Children offence and ordinarily resides in the home with the child then the non-offending parent/guardian will be contacted as a priority to ensure they are aware of the nature of the concern and potential risk to the child.

If the suspect lives elsewhere but has regular contact with the child, an assessment would be required to consider the nature and frequency of the contact and the non-suspect parent

would be advised as quickly as possible to ensure any custody arrangements are safe for the child.

Would social services routinely inform the following about the police suspecting a parent has committed an Indecent Images of Children offence?:

- a) The child's school.

Yes

- b) The child's GP

Not routinely. However, NHS are key Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) participants and so would have knowledge of the concern.

- c) Any other agencies or organisations known to be engaged with the family.

Yes

- d) If yes, please give examples of who that may be.

These concerns would trigger an Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD). This meeting would include representatives from Police Scotland, NHS and the City of Edinburgh Council Children's Services (Social Work). Liaison with other professionals may take place if relevant. For example, if the child was open to CAMHS, we would liaise with them.

Are there any support services in your area for children or their non-suspect parental guardian after a parent has been suspected of an Indecent Images of Children offence?

- a) If yes, please state who these are and which are tailored to support the child directly.

We frequently refer families to the Lucy Faithful Foundation.

If a child has need for a therapeutic service as a result of the concern raised, we have access to short-term therapeutic support for children/non-suspect parents through our Bairns Hoose Sycamore Support provision. This will be accessed following an assessment of the child's individual circumstances.

When the non-suspect parental guardian agrees with the social services recommendations for contact arrangements regarding the suspect parent, and is considered to be protective, does this mean that the case file is closed?

Assessment of the child's circumstances is holistic and at times other wider needs and or risks may be identified within the assessment that requires on-going support and assessment from social work. It is therefore not possible to provide a definite answer. However, in most cases if the non-suspect parent is acting protectively and agreeing to a safe plan for the child to spend time with the suspect, there would not be an on-going role for Social Work.

- a) In the process of closing a case file does the final correspondence to the non-suspect parent specifically state how long the agreed contact arrangements should be kept in place and/or state the circumstances in which social services might proactively reengage with the family?

No

Do social services routinely inform the police once when they close a case file after a receiving a safeguarding due to a parent being suspected of accessing Indecent Images of Children?

No

Would social services expect to be told by police of the following circumstances?: Suspect parent has bail conditions lifted however remains under investigation.

- a) An investigation into suspected Indecent Images of Children offence activity by a parent has concluded with no further police action required at this time.
- b) The Crown Prosecution Service has authorised charges for the suspect parent.
- c) Date of a suspect parents first court hearing.
- d) Suspect parent found not guilty in final criminal court proceedings.
- e) Suspect parent found guilty in final criminal court proceedings.
- f) Offending parent breached any of their sentencing requirements.
- g) Offending parent demonstrated an increase in risky behaviour without breaking the law, for example increased pornography use or alcohol consumption.
- h) Offending parent completed their Sexual Harm Prevention Order.
- i) Offending parent is so longer required to register as a sex offender.

Would social services directly contact the primary parental guardian to share the following updates from police in the following circumstances if the family has no open case file?:

- a) Suspect parent has bail conditions lifted however remains under investigation.
- b) An investigation into suspected Indecent Images of Children activity by a parent has concluded with no further police action required at this time.
- c) The Crown Prosecution Service has authorised charges for the suspect.
- d) Date of a suspect parents first court hearing.
- e) Suspect found not guilty in final criminal court proceedings.
- f) Suspect found guilty in final criminal court proceedings.
- g) Offending parent breached any of their sentencing requirements.
- h) Offending parent demonstrated an increase in risky behaviour without breaking the law, for example increased pornography use or alcohol consumption.

- i) Offending parent completed their Sexual Harm Prevention Order.
- j) Offending parent is no longer required to register as a sex offender.

If the family has no open case file would any of the following circumstances trigger an automatic reassessment of the appropriate contact arrangements between a child and a parent?:

- a) Suspect parent has bail conditions lifted however remains under investigation.
- b) An investigation into suspected Indecent Images of Children offence activity by a parent has concluded with no further police action required at this time.
- c) Suspect parent found not guilty in final criminal court proceedings.
- d) Suspect parent found guilty in final criminal court proceedings.
- e) Offending parent breached any of their sentencing requirements.
- f) Offending parent demonstrated an increase in risky behaviour without breaking the law, for example increased pornography use or alcohol consumption.
- g) Offending parent completed their Sexual Harm Prevention Order.
- h) Offending parent is no longer required to register as a sex offender.)

[The police will have their own information sharing protocols for these circumstances.](#)