

441—175.22 (232) Receipt of a report of suspected child abuse. Reports of suspected child abuse shall be received by local department offices, the central abuse registry, or the Child Abuse Hotline.

175.22(1) Any report made to the department which alleges child abuse as defined in Iowa Code section 232.68 shall be accepted for assessment.

175.22(2) Reports of suspected child abuse which do not meet the legal definition of child abuse shall become rejected intakes.

a. If a report of suspected child abuse does not meet the legal definition of child abuse or is accepted as a family assessment, but a criminal act harming a child is alleged, the department shall immediately refer the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

b. If a report constitutes an allegation of child sexual abuse as defined under Iowa Code section 232.68(2) “c,” except that the suspected abuse resulted from the acts or omissions of a person who was not a caretaker, the department shall refer the report to law enforcement orally and, as soon as practicable, follow up in writing within 72 hours of receiving the report.

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