

Flow chart for child abuse cases

Poland

The flow chart indicates institutions that can intervene in cases of cases of alleged child abuse or neglect cases and some main operational connections between these institutions.

A case of child abuse can be reported by parent, caretaker or any other person in a profession involving supervision or care of children, as well as any other person witnessing a child being abused. Mandatory reporting of child abuse cases to family courts refers in particular to health care, education, social services, and care institutions employees.

1. A person witnessing a child being abused can address directly:
2. Family court – an court dealing with cases where minors are involved. After inspecting the situation of a child the court can, among others, appoint a custody officer, terminate parental rights, send a child to residential care or adoption.
3. Police – in case when a child's life or health is at risk. If a child is at serious threat the Police can decide on immediate placement in care institution.
4. Prosecutor's office – to report that a crime has been committed. This information can be also submitted at the Police station, that is responsible for forwarding it to the prosecutors. The prosecutors has to inform the family court that a criminal case involving a child is being investigated.

A witness of child abuse can also turn to school or kindergarten where a child is enrolled (5), social care (6) or other institutions and organizations helping abused children (7). After screening the situation of the family, employees of these institutions can also decide to inform the family court, police or prosecutor's office. Representatives of different institutions can work together in a form of interdisciplinary teams (8)

