

# SEX OFFENSES INVOLVING JUVENILE VICTIMS

## 603.1 SEX OFFENSES INVOLVING JUVENILE VICTIMS

- (a) When an Officer receives an initial report of a sex offense, sexual assault or rape involving a juvenile victim, the Officer will:
  1. NOT conduct an interview of the juvenile victim concerning the details of the incident.
  2. NOT request a written witness statement from the juvenile victim.
- (b) Initial responding officers should obtain the basic Information needed to determine if there is reason to believe that a sexual abuse of a juvenile has likely occurred.
- (c) If an Officer determines that sexual abuse of a juvenile has likely occurred the Officer shall:
  1. Immediately contact the Investigations Division. This notification is essential because critical evidence may quickly be lost if the investigation is delayed.
  2. These types of investigations need to be handled by the Investigations Division due to specialized training concerning specific interview procedures and requirements.
  3. The only proper and court accepted method of interviewing a juvenile is through the use of child forensic interviewing.
  4. This type of interviewing is to be conducted ONLY by personnel who are trained in child forensic interviewing and, at a Children's Justice Center.
  5. It is mandatory, by state law, for these interviews to be audio and video recorded. The Children's Justice Center maintains a recording of the interview in accordance with State law.
- (d) If unforeseen, unavoidable and /or exigent circumstances arise, the Investigator may conduct a forensic interview at the police department.
  1. The Investigator has the mandatory requirement of ensuring that the interview is audio and video recorded.
  2. A sexual assault examination and Code R can be conducted well past 48 hours, and even if the victim has showered.
- (e) If we receive a call of a juvenile sex offense and, there is reason to believe that it likely occurred, it must be reported to DCFS. This can be done by calling 1-855-323-DCFS (3237) or by sending an email to [DCFSINTAKE@UTAH.GOV](mailto:DCFSINTAKE@UTAH.GOV).
  1. We are MANDATORY reporters for cases involving child abuse or sexual abuse involving a child.
- (f) When working any of these cases complete a records check to see if the victim already has an open case.