

# 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.