

Tri-County Community Council, Inc.
Head Start/Early Head Start

Part: 1302 Program Operations
Subpart: D- Health Program Services
Section: 1302.45 Child Mental Health and Social & Emotional Well Being
Subject: Sexual Predator Policy

Policy

To keep children enrolled in the Tri-County Head Start & Early Head Start Programs safe.

Procedure

It is the policy of Tri-County Head Start/Early Head Start to follow Law Enforcement guidance regarding persons placed on the sexual predator list. Recognizing that Local Law Enforcement officials usually notify the public regarding sexual predators in the community, the following steps will be taken:

1. Center Directors will check internet neighborhood predator list at the beginning of each school year to determine if there is anyone in the community or vicinity of the center that has a history of sexual abuse of young children. They will ask Law Enforcement to inform the center, throughout the year, if there is someone in the near vicinity of the center that is a potential threat to young children.
2. Head Start/Early Head Start staff will take necessary precautions to protect the children, following Law Enforcement advice.
3. Head Start/Early Head Start children will **never** be left alone with anyone other than Head Start/Early Head Start staff unless the person is a contracted, credentialed service provider (therapist).
4. Only designated Head Start/Early Head Start staff will go online, for Head Start/Early Head Start purposes, to seek the names of sexual predators who might be in the area.
5. Each incident of a sexual predator in the community will be treated on an individual basis.
6. If a parent comes to HS/EHS staff regarding their concern about a specific individual, the Center Director will contact Law Enforcement to see if that person is considered a danger for young children and take appropriate actions, as recommended by Law Enforcement.

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If the person of concern is a HS/EHS parent or significant other, the above guidelines will be followed. If that person (parent or significant other) is considered dangerous to young children, the following steps will be taken:

1. That person will not be allowed to volunteer in the classroom.
2. If that person arrives at the center to pick up their child, staff will take the child to the door to meet the person. He or She will not be allowed in the classroom.
3. That person will be allowed to attend family activities with their child, but will be monitored at all times by staff, and will not be allowed to be alone with any child other than their own.

Every effort will be made to keep HS/EHS children safe. At the same time every effort will be made to allow HS/EHS parents and significant others to be involved with their child at Head Start and Early Head Start, unless there is court orders stating that they should have no contact with young children.

At all times, the safety of the children will be of the utmost importance, and appropriate steps will be taken to assure their safety.