What Happens When DCF Receives a 51A Report?

APPENDIX A: What Happens When DCF Receives a 51A Report?

A REPORT IS FILED*
DCF receives a report of alleged child abuse/neglect or exploitation (called a "51A Report") from a community member or mandated reporter.

SCREENING**
Completed within 1 working day

Screening Decision-Making
Immediate concern for child safety? Does a reportable condition exist?

Yes Immediate Safety Concern
Yes Reportable Condition

No Immediate Safety Concern
No Reportable Condition

SCREENED IN for RESPONSE

EMERGENCY
initiated within 6 hours, completed within 24 hours

NON-EMERGENCY
initiated within 3 working days, completed within 15 days

Response Decision-Making

1. Is there a finding on the reported allegation(s) and person(s) found responsible?
2. Is department intervention needed?

Yes
1. Yes reasonable abuse or neglect found and person named to central registry
2. Yes Department intervention needed

Support
DCF opens a case for intervention, assessment and action planning**

Substantiated Concern
DCF opens a case for intervention, assessment and action planning**

Unsupport
DCF does not open a new case, but can refer for services

Yes

No

1. No reasonable abuse or neglect and no person named
2. No Department intervention

**
Key: Green means the family is inside the DCF system. White is inside the system. Circles are starting and end points; dashed arrows are optional paths.

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