



MIRACLE Counseling

Wisconsin Child Welfare PDS Mandated Reporter Training

Definition of Methamphetamine Manufacture as Child Abuse

The criminal manufacture of methamphetamines is defined as child abuse when it is done under any of the following circumstances:

- A child is present
- It is manufactured in a child's home, on the premises of a child's home or in a motor vehicle on the premises of a child's home or
- It is manufactured under any other circumstances where a reasonable person should have known that the manufacture would be seen, smelled or heard by a child

What are methamphetamines?

You have probably heard the term “meth” or “crystal meth”. Methamphetamine is a stimulant drug for the central nervous system that is legally available only through a prescription and is highly addictive. It is possible to manufacture it in illegal labs such as homes, garages or other places. Even short-term exposure to chemical vapors in these labs can cause severe health problems, particularly for children, or death. Illegal labs can explode and burn, and they produce a large amount of dangerous chemical waste which may be dumped in the yard where children play. Illegal meth labs are generally handled as a Hazardous Material (Hazmat) site.

How does the manufacture of methamphetamines compare with other types of maltreatment?

As in physical and sexual abuse, the manufacture of methamphetamines under the above conditions could be done by any person, not just a caregiver. Also, as in physical neglect, the child need not have been harmed yet by exposure to the manufacturing process for it to be abuse.

<http://wcwpds.wisc.edu/mandatedreporter/>



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