

**Virginia Department of Social Services
Child Protective Services Release of Information to Family Advocacy Representatives of
the United States Armed Forces
22 VAC 40-720-10**

22VAC40-720-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Abuser/neglector" means any person who is the subject of a complaint and is suspected of or is found to have committed the abuse or neglect of a child pursuant to §63.1-248 et seq. of the Code of Virginia.

"Administrative appeal rights" means the child protective services appeals procedures for a local level informal conference and a state level hearing pursuant to §63.1-248 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, under which an individual who is suspected of or is found to have committed abuse or neglect may request that the Department of Social Services' records be amended.

"Child protective services" means the identification, receipt and immediate investigation of complaints and reports of child abuse and neglect for children under 18 years of age. It also includes documenting, arranging for, and providing social casework and other services for the child, his family, and the alleged abuser or neglector.

"Complaint" means a valid report of suspected child abuse or neglect which must be investigated by the local department of social services.

"Family Advocacy Program representative" means the professional employed by the United States Armed Forces who has responsibility for the program which is designed to address prevention, identification, evaluation, treatment, rehabilitation, follow-up and reporting of family violence.

"Founded" means that a review of the facts shows ~~clear and convincing~~ a preponderance of evidence that child abuse or neglect has occurred.

"Investigation" means the formal fact-finding process utilized by the local department of social services in determining whether or not abuse or neglect has occurred. This process is employed for each valid complaint received by the local department.

"Report" means any information transmitted to the local department of social services relating the suspicion of possible abuse or neglect of a child pursuant to §63.1-248 et seq. of the Code of Virginia.