

ILM Child Abandonment Policy

“If you think a child or youth under 19 years of age is being abused or neglected, you have the legal duty to report your concern to a child welfare worker.”—gov.bc.ca (2023).

In British Columbia, neglect is defined as a failure to provide for a child's basic needs: food, clothing, adequate shelter, supervision and medical care.

When a Child is Abandoned at an ILM Centre

Step 1: Immediately ensure the safety and well-being of the abandoned child.

Step 2: Ask a fellow staff member to notify Management about the child's abandonment.

Step 3: Report the child's abandonment to the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Step 4: Verbally speak with Management to confirm protocol has been followed.

Step 5: Continue to ensure safety of the abandoned child until relieved by the MCFD.

Step 6: Before releasing the child to MCFD, verify credentials of MCFD representative.

Reporting an Abandoned Child

ILM staff are required by law to report any and all incidents of child abandonment to the Ministry of Children and Family Development:

- 24-hour service: 1-800-663-9122

Be prepared to provide:

- Your name
- Centre/facility name and location.
- Centre/facility phone number.
- Child's name and current location.
- Immediate concern: **abandonment**.
- What occurred: specific events regarding the abandonment.
- Any statements or disclosures made by the child.

- Child's age.
- Information about parents/guardians (names, addresses, contact numbers).
- Names of people that witnessed the child's abandonment.
- Information about the child:
 - Communication mode.
 - Culture and/or language.
 - Disabilities.
 - Name of a key support person.