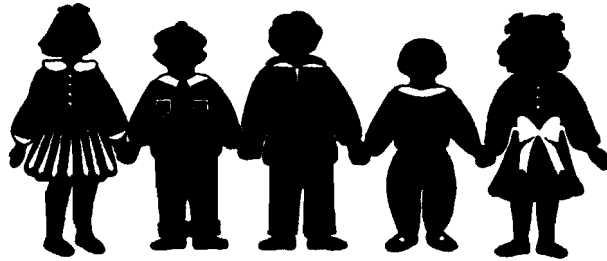


**METH
ENDANGERED
CHILDREN'S
TEAM**

METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSE



**A MULTI-DISCIPLINE PROTOCOL FOR THE
CARE OF CHILDREN IN
METHAMPHETAMINE LABS**

**The Fourteenth Judicial District of Tennessee including
Manchester, Tullahoma, and Coffee County.**

PROTOCOL FOR CHILDREN IN METH LABS

These protocols are meant to provide a multi-discipline guide that provides for children involved with methamphetamine labs in Manchester, Tullahoma, and Coffee County Tennessee. The primary goal of these protocols is to provide safety for children that are put in these situations. Second they are meant to aid in the investigation and prosecution of offenders that have abused or neglected these children. Hopefully by following these guidelines all involved in the process can maintain a unified effort for the safety of the children.

These protocols should be viewed as a guide to assist each agency. They are not always applicable in every situation. Common sense should dictate procedure.

TCA 39-15-401 & 402- It is against the law to abuse, harm or endanger a child.

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PROTOCOL FOR CHLD ADVOCACY CENTER

METH ENDANGERED CHILDREN'S TEAM
INTERAGENCY OPERATING AGREEMENT

APRIL 2005

WHEREAS: The manufacture of illegal methamphetamine is a major public safety issue and a danger to the children in the 14th Judicial District of Tennessee; and

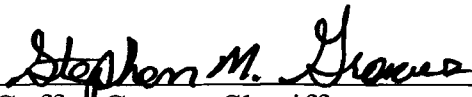
WHEREAS: Children are the innocent victims of exposure to methamphetamine and its toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS: The needs of methamphetamine endangered children must be met and these children must be protected; and

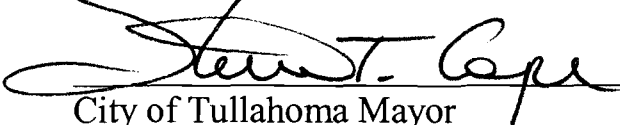
WHEREAS: The mission of the Meth Endangered Children's Team is to bring together appropriate agencies to establish a process and method of information sharing, cooperation, and coordination leading to increased safety for these endangered children;

We, the members of the Meth Endangered Children's Team, vested with the responsibility of ensuring the safety and well being of meth endangered children, agree to adopt this Interagency Operating Agreement in order to promote information sharing with a view toward thoughtful and aggressive protective action:


This memorandum of understanding is agreed upon on this 20th day of April, 2005.




Coffee County Sheriff
~~Steve Graves~~




City of Tullahoma Mayor
Steve Cope



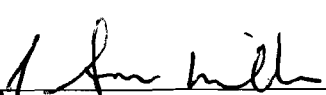
City of Manchester Mayor
Johnnie Brown




Coffee County Mayor
Ray Johnson



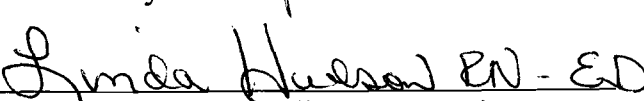
Chief, Tullahoma Fire Department
C.B. Watkins



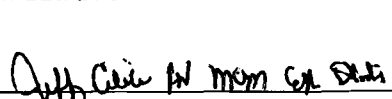
Chief, Manchester Fire Department
Sam Miller



Director, Coffee County EMS
John Cathey




Harton Regional Medical – ER Director
Linda Hudson

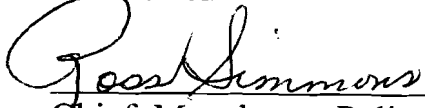


Medical Center of Manchester – ER Director
Jeff Carlisle

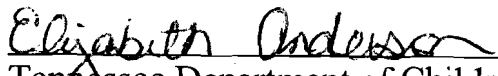
United Regional Medical Center -- ER Director
Richie Lupo



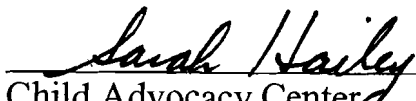
Chief, Tullahoma Police Department
J.C. Ferrell



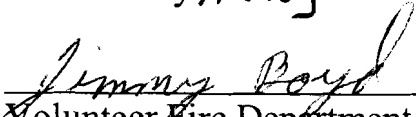
Chief, Manchester Police Department
Ross Simmons



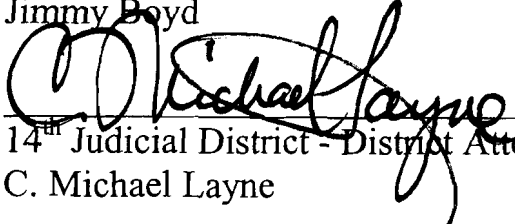
Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Elizabeth Anderson



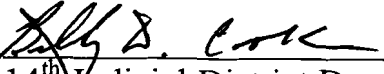
Child Advocacy Center
Sarah Hailey



Volunteer Fire Department
Jimmy Boyd



14th Judicial District - District Attorney
C. Michael Layne



14th Judicial District Drug and Violent
Crime Task Force Director
Billy Cook

METHAMPHETAMINE PROTOCOL

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement protocols will be broken down into **Situations I through IV**. Each of these situations will be defined and include the recommended steps to be taken when encountered.

SITUATION I

The criteria for Situation I: a working methamphetamine lab and/or working components inside a residence where children are present. Working components would be any process or stages of methamphetamine production. This would include pills being broke down, red phosphorus being extracted, gassing off meth oil, and/or other procedures.

Steps that should be taken:

1. Secure the Scene and assess the danger involved for children, officers, and defendants.
2. Provide a temporary safe environment (away from Meth Lab contamination) for Children while preparing other procedures.
3. Contact Clan Lab certified Officer.
4. Notify Fire Department for assistance as needed (fresh air packs, safety equipment in case of fire or explosion, ventilation fans). This in most cases should be determined by Clan Lab trained officer or Site Safety Officer
5. Contact Meth Truck Driver.
6. Call DCS Supervisor- cell phone #s will be provided

7. If it is apparent there is immediate medical attention for children- go ahead and have them transported to Emergency Room for treatment. This can be accomplished by private vehicle if available or by someone that is kin to child(ren). Family members not living there are sometimes helpful to assist. **However do not let the children leave your supervision.** Or in some situations it may be necessary to transport them in Patrol Vehicle, or Unmarked Vehicle. If this is necessary put child in tyvex suit or if an infant wrap in a tyvex blanket.
8. If serious attention is required such as burns, respiratory problems, or similar situation transport by way of ambulance. Try and provide means necessary to keep from contaminating the ambulance.
9. Call DCS so they will know to respond to the hospital instead of the crime scene.
10. DCS policy prohibits them from transporting children prior to decontamination.
11. In certain cases if possible it is advisable to go through a decontamination procedure before the child is transported. The Meth Truck is equipped for this procedure. It is important to not traumatize the child anymore than is needed.
12. Do not let any belongings extra clothing, toys, food or even bottles accompany the child to the E.R. (due to possible contamination).
13. It is advisable to notify the E.R. of situation as soon as possible to ensure their preparation.
14. When arriving at E.R. notify medical staff prior to entering. This will allow Medical or ER staff to take child to Bathroom for decontamination prior to entering the emergency room for examination and treatment.
15. Insure either E.R. or someone obtains a urine sample form the child(ren) within 2 hours. Meth that is breathed in or absorbed with quickly leave the child's system.
16. Obtain swabs for the ion scanner- children's toys, living area, ect should be taken. The Meth truck driver is certified on the machine and can take custody of swabs or assist at the scene.

17. Most of the time evidence at a meth lab speaks for itself. In the event children interviews are necessary law enforcement and DCS should coordinate with each other.
18. DCS policy is that no worker should go into a contaminated area.
19. Law enforcement will provide appropriate notes, reports, diagrams and pictures for prosecution and custody matters (this is necessary for L.E. case anyway).
20. Call DCS law enforcement referral line **(1-877-237-0026)** within 24 hours of responding to crime scene. ****Please note:** DCS Supervisor has provided phone numbers as a way to speed up the process of DCS response. This eliminates time for the normal referral process. Therefore it is important to report or make referral with 24 hours as in the normal procedure.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SITUATION II

The criteria for Situation II: a working meth lab and/or working components found on the property but not in the residence where children are at. On the property would mean an outbuilding, barn, shed, out in the woods (near a residence) or in some cases a garage. This would be for a lab or components where children are present but not directly exposed to the chemicals and process. There could be a fine line between a Situation I and II so officer's discretion such be observed. It is believed that the majority of discovered labs fall in this category.

Steps that should be taken:

1. Secure the Scene and assess the danger involved for Children, Officers, and Defendants.
2. Provide a temporary safe environment (away from Meth Lab contamination) for Children while preparing other procedures.
3. Contact Clan Lab certified Officer.
4. Contact Meth Truck Driver.
5. Notify Fire Department for assistance as needed (fresh air packs, safety equipment in case of fire or explosion, ventilation fans). This in most cases should be determined by Clan Lab trained officer or Site Safety Officer
6. Call DCS Supervisor (Team Leader Cell Phone number(s) provided. Discuss as to whether immediate DCS response is needed. If not discuss whether children should be relocated. Relocation would mean sent to be with other family members or responsible party.
7. Work crime scene.
8. Provide DCS with notes, reports, diagrams, and pictures.

9. If applicable collect urine or other sample for contaminants of child and/or child's belongings (such as toys, clothes, ect.).

10. Notify DCS law enforcement referral number.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

SITUATION III

The criteria for Situation III: a lab and/or working components or non working components in a residence or on the property but there are no children present. However it is apparent or suspected that the persons there or residing there will have children visiting or in the residence in the future. This situation would apply such as when parents share custody, have weekend visitation, or just have children that come and visit. A good indication for this would be information obtained during interview of defendant and/or neighbors, children's toys or clothing at the residence or past experience with the defendants.

Steps that should be taken:

1. Work the Crime Scene- document the usual by notes, reports, diagrams and pictures.
2. Call DCS Law Enforcement referral number and report.
3. Have documentation available for DCS if needed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

SITUATION IV

The criteria for Situation IV: There is no lab present in the residence or on the property. However there are quantities of Methamphetamine, other drugs, and/or dangerous drug equipment or paraphernalia present that are accessible by children. Examples of these would be methamphetamine and/or other drugs around the living area of the house where a child might encounter and ingest or absorb. Dangerous equipment and paraphernalia might be syringes, needles, pipes, glassware, ect.

Steps that should be taken: (Follow same procedure as in Situation II)

1. Secure the Scene and assess the danger involved for Children, Officers, and Defendants.
2. Provide a temporary safe environment (away from Drugs and/or equipment or paraphernalia) for Children while preparing other procedures.
3. Call DCS Supervisor (Team Leader Cell Phone number(s) provided. Discuss as to whether immediate DCS response is needed. If not discuss whether children should be relocated. Relocation would mean sent to be with other family members or responsible party.
4. Work crime scene.
5. Provide DCS with notes, reports, diagrams, and pictures.
6. If applicable collect urine or other sample for contaminates of child and/or child's belongings (such as toys, clothes, ect.).
7. Notify DCS law enforcement referral number within 24 hours.

METHAMPHETAMINE PROTOCOL

DCS

Receive and review law enforcement reports of possible child abuse/neglect.

1. Respond expeditiously and appropriately.
 - a. If contacted by law enforcement respond immediately to the location where the child is present.
 - b. If the first report of a suspected meth lab site is received by DCS, contact law enforcement for assistance and respond as instructed.

2. Evaluate family composition and identify all available relative resources.
 - a. Interview individuals with information about the child and the child's circumstances.
 - b. Obtain information collected by law enforcement regarding family members and other caretakers including names, addresses and telephone numbers and availability of alternative placement options.
 - c. Attempt to locate and coordinate removal of children that were not on the premises (e.g. children at school).

Assume custody or make appropriate placement

3. Assume physical custody of child once law enforcement or hospital personnel have completed decontamination.
 - a. Ensure that the child has no toys or other personal belongings from the site.
 - b. Ensure that no food or drink (including baby bottles) from the site accompanies the child.

Ensure legal Determination

4. Follow established DCS policy for obtaining legal custody of the child.
 - a. Contact immediate supervisor and other as appropriate
 - b. Contact DCS legal for permission to remove the child and to evaluate the appropriate placement options.

Respond to Medical Facility

5. Law enforcement will be responsible for transportation of the child to the appropriate medical facility and notifying DCS.
 - a. Respond expeditiously to the designated medical facility.
 - b. Ensure that appropriate decontamination has been completed.
6. Ensure that appropriate medical care is provided.
 - a. Medical evaluations and testing completed as necessary.
 - b. Obtain all medical records available including emergency room records-follow up with additional medical requests as further medical records identified.
 - c. Notify the Health Department of meth exposure when requesting EPSD&T evaluation or when scheduling other medical evaluations.
 - d. Review emergency room records to determine if further medical evaluation is recommended.

Foster Care/Relative Care

7. Contact resource management and evaluate placement options.
 - a. Identify appropriate relative resources if possible.
 - b. Facilitate foster care or relative kinship care as appropriate.

Conduct interviews, gather information and collect evidence

8. Ensure that urine sample is collected from child at medical facility within two (2) hours of custody unless exigent circumstances exist.
9. Obtain evidence from law enforcement and independently.
 - a. Photograph physical condition of child if possible.
 - b. Interview child and any other available witnesses to determine
 - 1) Primary caregiver
 - 2) Child's knowledge of drug manufacturing process
 - 3) Child's living area in relation to the actual meth lab
 - 4) Medical problems
 - c. Coordinate further interviews with law enforcement.

Participate in all legal proceedings

10. Follow up with DCS legal to complete necessary legal proceedings.
 - a. Contact DCS legal next working day to complete legal documents
 - b. Participate in all hearings scheduled.

c. Assist with identifying and contacting witnesses and gathering evidence.

***NOTE** - DCS has established guidelines titled DCS Responds to the Outbreak of Methamphetamine. The policy and procedures addressed in this book will supersede any local protocol.

METHAMPHETAMINE PROTOCOL

MEDICAL

Medical Facility shall complete decontamination procedures as determined to be appropriate.

1. Complete decontamination as consistent with unknown chemical exposure.
 - a. For a symptomatic child (as determined by Law Enforcement/EMS at the scene)
 - 1) Law Enforcement/EMS will decontaminate at the scene and transport immediately to appropriate medical facility.
 - b. For an asymptomatic child as determined by Law Enforcement/EMS at the scene)
 - 1) If the child can be wrapped in a Tyvex or other appropriate blanket, the child will be wrapped and transported by Law Enforcement to the appropriate medical facility.
 - 2) If the child cannot be wrapped, Law Enforcement will decontaminate on site and transport to the appropriate medical facility.

Medical Personnel will perform necessary Medical Emergency Care.

2. Once a child has been decontaminated, conduct emergency evaluation including:
 - a. Neurologic screen
 - b. Respiratory status
 - c. Dermatology review
 - d. Baseline vital signs
 - e. Consider calling local pediatric child abuse specialist
 - f. Note other signs of neglect or abuse (e.g. growth parameters, developmental delays)

3. Assist with collection of urine sample for evidentiary purposes.
 - a. Ideally, should be collected within two (2) hours of child's removal from meth lab site.
 - b. Urine sample shall be tested at the medical facility or maintained by hospital personnel until collected by law enforcement.

Child shall remain at Medical Facility pending DCS Custody.

4. Hospital security and/or law enforcement shall ensure that the child remains at the hospital and is released to no one other than identified DCS personnel.
 - a. DCS shall respond promptly to the medical facility.
 - b. DCS shall make an evaluation of custody options and place appropriately

Medical records shall be released to DCS along with the child

5. Emergency medical records shall be recorded, copied and made available to DCS before the child is released.
 - a. A HIPAA exception exists for endangered children.
 - b. Any ongoing medical problems should be documented and brought to the attention of DCS personnel.
 - c. Follow up with appropriate DCS personnel to ensure that medical problems are identified and appropriate referrals are made.

METHAMPHETAMINE PROTOCOL

EMS

Treatment and Transport of Children in Meth Labs

1. Assess for :
 - a. Signs of exposure
 - b. If not already present, notify Law Enforcement

2. Signs include:
 - a. Respiratory Distress
 - b. Cardiac related complications
 - c. Blood Pressure abnormalities
 - d. Dermatological effects

In the presence of a possible meth lab:

3. Treat and Transport
4. It has been the opinion of several Health Care Experts in the field that there is no short-term exposure risk to the providers treating these children.
 - a. To treat simply wrap the child in a warm blanket
 - b. Monitor vitals
 - c. Give supportive care for symptoms found

2. These children are victims of circumstance.
 - a. Be kind
 - b. Be supportive
 - c. Remember that no personal effect can be transported with the patient
 - d. Notify hospital personnel in advance of transport being from a meth lab so they have time to prepare.

METHAMPHETAMINE PROTOCOL

MUNCIPAL FIRE/VOLUNTEER FIRE

Respond to call – if suspicious of a meth lab contact law enforcement.

3. Secure the scene and ensure the safety of initial responders and others found at the site.
4. Set up appropriate scene decontamination measures (ventilation, extinguish fires ect.).
5. Ensure that all individuals including children exposed to toxic chemicals are properly treated and removed from dangerous exposure.
6. Notify law enforcement of possible meth lab.
7. Maintain integrity of crime scene till law enforcement arrives.

Assess condition of injured - including children that are discovered.

1. Perform a field medical assessment to see if emergency medical care is necessary.
 - a. For a child with obvious injuries or illness, call for assistance or transport immediately and notify Law Enforcement to meet at the hospital.
 - b. For a child not obviously critical or a non-emergency perform a field medical assessment and notify law enforcement.
 - c. Law enforcement will coordinate transport to hospital for non-emergency situations to prevent contamination of ambulances.

METHAMPHETAMINE PROTOCOL

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Review all evidence provided by Law Enforcement

Criminal charges to be filed as determined by the District Attorney's Office.

Prosecute Cases to the fullest extent the law allows.

METHAMPHETAMINE PROTOCOL

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

The Child Advocacy Center agrees to provide services and facilities for the care, examination, counseling and treatment of meth-abused children as necessary whenever such services and facilities become available.