

Definition of Serious Bodily Harm

“Serious bodily harm” is defined as any harm or injury, whether **physical, sexual, or psychological**, that would warrant treatment beyond basic first aid, regardless of whether or not treatment was received; or any injuries as a result of physical restraints; or any alleged incidents of sexual assaults, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Treatment for a medical condition is not considered a serious bodily harm and is not required to be reported.

All cases of serious bodily harm must be reported.

Examples of serious bodily harm include, but are not limited to:

Physical Harm:

- All fractures to any bone
- Severe internal injuries including injuries caused by shaking, or a motor vehicle accident
- All burns excluding burns that can be treated with basic first aid
- All incidents of self-harm excluding harm that can be treated with basic first aid
- All suspected or confirmed suicide attempts
- Ingestion of, inhalation of, injection of, or exposure to medication(s) or other noxious substance(s) that requires medical care
- Drug or alcohol overdose, if medical treatment is required
- Eye injury, deep wounds or punctures, and cuts needing suture
- Serious bruising, swelling and complaints of pain sustained proximal to a physical restraint or physical altercation
- Any injury related to physical restraint
- Serious head, brain or spinal cord injuries including concussions or concussion-like symptoms

Sexual Harm:

- All allegations of sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking must be reported.
- Sexual assault is when a child/youth’s sexual integrity is violated. This includes any non-consensual or unwanted sexual activity such as grabbing, kissing, or fondling.

Psychological Harm:

Psychological harm includes situations where a young person witness or experiences an acute or extraordinary event. Examples include but are not limited to: a house fire, violent event or violent crime, hate crimes, and serious accidents.

Once a death or serious bodily harm occurs to a child or youth, agencies and service providers who receive information of the incident are obligated to inform the Ombudsman Office, in writing via an online notification form on the Ombudsman website, without reasonable delay (within 48 hours). Agencies and service providers must also inform the affected child or youth, and their family, about the existence and contact information for the Ombudsman Office within 14 days of the incident.