

KNOWINGLY FALSE REPORTS

— Knowingly false report: A report which is made by a reporter in the absence of a belief that abuse/neglect has occurred.

— Success: Not receiving another knowingly false report on the family.
Reducing the incidence and impact on the victim and family.

— Scope of the Issue:

- Child protective services and general protective services
- Intake, investigation and service delivery
- Family, victim and reporter
- Used successfully, used unsuccessfully, untried ideas
- Does not include screening out reports at intake

— Factors were identified which were commonly associated with cases that were suspected to be a knowingly false report:

- custody dispute
- neighborhood dispute
- history of conflict between the referral source and the alleged perpetrator
- history of multiple referrals that are consistently unfounded
- anonymous referral
- alleged perpetrators claim that the allegations are false
- undertones of retaliation or revenge
- the victim's statement is inconsistent with the developmental or age level
- indications that the child's statements were coached
- domestic violence
- intrafamilial or extended family conflict
- lack of medical or physical evidence
- the allegations lack specifics or details
- the referral source lacks first hand knowledge

These factors are not to be used as predictors to screen any cases out. All reports must still be investigated.