

know risk

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Working with children checks - Northern Territory

The Care and Protection of Children Act 2007 (NT) came into force in 2008 and covers employees and volunteers in child related employment who are now required to obtain a Clearance Notice before commencing work. The screening program is being phased in over 12 months in order to allow people already employed in child-related settings to obtain Clearance Notices.

Individuals are required to apply for a Working With Children Check, known as a "Clearance Notice" in the Northern Territory. A Clearance Notice is valid for two years, and applies to employees and volunteers in child-related employment settings

Mandatory reporting

Any person with a belief on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is likely to be a victim of a sexual offence; or otherwise has suffered or is likely to suffer harm or exploitation, is mandated to report in the Northern Territory. Any person who believes, on reasonable grounds, that a child has suffered or is suffering maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse, neglect or exposure to physical violence) must report.

Reports should be made to:

Children, Youth and Families - Department of Health and Families http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Children_Youth_and_Families

Sources

- Care and Protection of Children Act 2007 (NT)
- Mandatory Reporting - "Summary of Grounds & Contacts for Notification of Abuse"

- Herbert Greer & Rundle (Lawyers),
- Choose with Care (Childwise),
- Community Welfare Act 1983
- http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Children_Youth_and_Families
- National Child Protection Clearinghouse <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/index.html>

Summary

While the Working with Children Check must be complied with, it cannot solely be relied upon to determine the suitability of a worker or volunteer. The check is only ONE of the strategies that organisations must establish to ensure that people who work with children are suitable to do so. Organisations must ensure that other measures are in place to assess a person's suitability to work with children, including interviews, thorough reference checks, a code of conduct, vigilant supervision and regular training.

This material is for information purposes only. It is not intended to give specific legal or risk management advice nor are any suggestions, checklists or action plans intended to include or address all possible risk management exposures or solutions.

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