



Report Presented To:	Township of Southgate Council Meeting
Meeting Date:	2024-09-18
Report Number	HR2024-005
Title:	Child Protection Policy
Open/Closed Session:	Open Session
Prepared By:	Kayla Best Human Resources Manager
Approved By:	Kayla Best Human Resources Manager
Approved By:	Dina Lundy Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

The Township of Southgate has created a policy to stress the importance of the Township’s commitment to providing services and spaces that are free from child abuse. The policy provides clear guidelines and outlines how abuse or suspected abuse can be reported to and addressed by the Township of Southgate.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Staff report HR2024-005 be received for information; and
That Council consider approval of By-law 2024-115 to approve Policy #97 – Child Protection Policy.

Background:

The Township of Southgate provides various programming activities for children and youth. As this expands, we want to stress the importance of providing a safe environment for children and youth that is free from child abuse.

Analysis

Township staff may encounter situations where child abuse is either reported to them or suspected while carrying out programming activities. This policy provides a guideline on the steps to take if this occurs to ensure this type of sensitive situation is handled correctly. The Township is also committed to ensuring there is a mechanism and guideline to reporting suspected child abuse from a Township staff person or volunteer to ensure we are taking the proper steps to ensure safe programming for youth and children.

Internal Policy and Legislated Requirements:

- a. Child and Family Services Act, SS 1989-90, c C-7.2
- b. The Child Care Act, SS 2014, c C-7.31
- c. Occupational Health & Safety Act (OHSA)

Financial and Resource Implications:

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Strategic Priorities:

Priority: Happy, Healthy Communities

Goal: Goal 8: Enhance Community Safety

Action Item: 8 b). Design Public Spaces to Enhance Community Safety

Attachments:

None.