

Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Inc.

River Ridge - 1141 South Main Street, Shawano, Wisconsin 54166 • Telephone (715) 524-8283

Kurt D. Heuer
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Wisconsin Rapids

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3rd Vice President
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Executive Director
Shawano

Frank G. Sleeter
Treasurer
Pickerel



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To whom it may concern:

WCPA Position Statement on Reporting Child Sexual Abuse

The Wisconsin Chief's of Police Association (WCPA) represents over 500 police chiefs in the state. Recently there has been some public discussion in Wisconsin regarding proper reporting procedures of child sexual abuse. The following describes our position of the WCPA.

The WCPA does not support organizational policies that encourage individuals to report this type of crime directly to the organization. The investigation of these crimes is very sensitive. In order to preserve the integrity of the investigation, police must be notified before the organization where the alleged abuse occurred. To do otherwise will very likely compromise the objectivity and quality of the subsequent investigation. As a result, the chances of successfully finding the truth can be greatly diminished.

Organizational leaders can be assured that they will be notified as soon as possible, but first it is essential that the police have an opportunity to seek evidence before the alleged offender can potentially cover-up valuable evidence. Police investigators work to ensure that an abuser does not have any opportunity to continue to abuse anyone during this process.

The order in which victims report these crimes is extremely important. Therefore, the WCPA respectfully requests that when organizations give direction to individuals on reporting procedures, they simply and clearly state that these crimes should be reported to police. To direct otherwise can cause confusion and obstruct the successful pursuit of the truth.

Respectfully,

Kurt D. Heuer

President, Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association