

## Standard of Practice: Duty to Report

### Standard of Practice

Naturopathic doctors must be knowledgeable about situations when it is mandatory to report and must report such situations when they occur to the appropriate authorities.

### Introduction

The intent of this standard is to outline when naturopathic doctors have a duty to report in the following:

- situations involving a child in need;
- unprofessional conduct by colleagues or other regulated health professionals; and
- notifiable diseases, as outlined in **CNDA Standard Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control**.

### Definitions

**Child:** a person under the age of 18 years, as per the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act S.1(1)(d)*.

**Child in need:** if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the survival, security or development of the child that is endangered in situations outlined in the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act S.1(2)*.

**Colleague:** another naturopathic doctor who is registered with the CNDA

**Competence:** the integrated knowledge, skills, judgement and attributes required of a naturopathic doctor to practise safely and ethically.

**Director of Child Youth Services:** the person designated by the Minister as a director for the purposes of the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* and the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act*.

**Emotional injury:** impairment of the child's mental or emotional functioning or development, and if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the emotional injury is the result of situations or actions outlined in the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act S.1(3)(a)(ii)*

**Guardian:** a person who is or is appointed a guardian by the *Family Law Act*.

**Notifiable disease:** a disease included in the **Alberta Notifiable Disease List** by Alberta Health.

**Unprofessional conduct:** as defined in the *Health Professions Act S.1 (pp)*

### When involving a child in need, naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard by:

1. reporting the incident to a director of Child Youth Services, as per *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act S.4*, when:
  - a) the child has suffered physical harm or there is substantial risk that the child will suffer physical harm whether it was inflicted by the parent and/or guardian or

- resulted from the parent and/or guardian's failure to care for or protect the child,
- b) the child has been sexually abused or there is substantial risk that the child will be sexually abused either by a parent and/or guardian or as a result of that parent and/or guardian's failure to protect the child,
  - c) the child has suffered emotional injury either by the parent and/or guardian or as a result of that parent and/or guardian's failure to protect the child, and
  - d) the child requires essential medical, surgical or other remedial treatment that is necessary for the health or well-being of the child and the parent and/or guardian is unable or unwilling to consent to the treatment.

**When having reasonable grounds to believe that the conduct of a colleague constitutes unprofessional conduct, naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard by:**

2. reporting a colleague to the CNDA Complaints Director when they believe with reasonable and probable grounds, that the conduct of the colleague places a patient or patients at risk. Situations of this include, but are not limited to, when a colleague:
  - a) makes sexual advances to or enters into a sexual relationship with a patient,
  - b) suffers from a physical, cognitive, mental or emotional condition that is negatively impacting patient care, or is reasonably likely to negatively impact patient care, and
  - c) does not demonstrate competence in the care of patients;
3. providing the involved patient with information on how to file a complaint with the CNDA Complaints Director;
4. offering to file a third-party complaint with the involved patient's consent, if the patient does not wish to file a complaint themselves;
5. reporting the colleague to the CNDA Complaints Director without providing the name of the involved patient, if the patient does not consent to proceeding with a third-party complaint; and
6. documenting information in accordance with the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping** and indicating whether or not the involved patient wishes to report to the CNDA Complaints Director.

**When having knowledge of unprofessional conduct of another regulated health professional, naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard by:**

7. reporting the regulated health professional to the appropriate regulatory body when they believe with reasonable and probable grounds, that the conduct of the regulated health professional places patients at risk or is considered unprofessional conduct under the *Health Professions Act*;

8. providing the involved patient with contact information for the appropriate regulatory body;
9. reporting the regulated health professional to their regulatory body without providing the name of the involved patient; and
10. documenting information in accordance with the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping**.

**When a naturopathic doctor is suffering from a condition that may affect patient care, they demonstrate this standard by:**

11. self-reporting their condition to the CNDA Registrar; and
12. following any instructions provided by the CNDA Registrar with regards to the disclosed condition(s).

**When encountering a patient with a notifiable disease in a clinic setting, naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard by:**

13. having knowledge of the current **Alberta Notifiable Disease List** by Alberta Health;
14. reporting the notifiable disease to the appropriate authority and within the required timeline as outlined in the **Alberta Health Notifiable Disease Report Manual**;

### Expected Outcomes

Patients and public are satisfied that:

- naturopathic doctors are knowledgeable about who to report incidents to and will report when there is a probable suspicion of when a child is in need;
- naturopathic doctors are knowledgeable about when and who to report a colleague or another regulated health professional to when there are reasonable and probable grounds of unprofessional conduct; and
- naturopathic doctors are knowledgeable about when and who to report to in cases of a notifiable disease.

### Related Documents

*Health Professions Act*

*Child, Youth Family Enhancement Act*

*Family Law Act*

CNDA Code of Ethics

CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

CNDA Standard of Practice: Professional Relationship and Boundaries

CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping

Alberta Notifiable Disease List

## Alberta Health Notifiable Disease Report Manual

