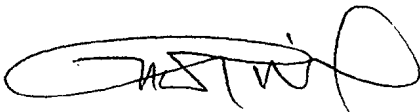

GOVERNMENT NOTICE
GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWING

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND SECURITY
DEPARTEMENT VAN VEILIGHEID EN SEKURITEIT

No. 865

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The National Instruction on Sexual Offences is hereby published in terms of section 66(1) of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007) for general information.



T.C. WILLIAMS
ACT/NATIONAL COMMISSIONER

National Commissioner: South African Police Service

NATIONAL INSTRUCTION 3/2008

SEXUAL OFFENCES

1. Background

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007) creates a framework which will ensure the provision of adequate and effective protection to *victims of sexual offences*. The purpose of this National Instruction is to ensure that members render a professional service to *victims* in respect of the investigation of offences of this nature and to assist *victims* in this regard.

2. Definitions

In this instruction, unless the context otherwise indicates, –

- (a) **“child”** means a person below the age of 18 years;
- (b) **“crime scene”** means the place, including, where applicable, the vehicle or vessel at or in which an alleged *sexual offence* took place;
- (c) **“health care professional”** means the district surgeon or a person appointed by the Department of Health to conduct a medical examination of a *victim of a sexual offence*;
- (d) **“interested person”** means any person who has a material interest in the well-being of a *victim*, including a spouse, same sex or heterosexual permanent life partner, parent, guardian, family member, care giver, curator, counsellor, *medical practitioner*, health service provider, social worker or teacher of such *victim*;
- (e) **“investigating officer”** means a member of the Service designated to investigate the complaint of a *sexual offence*. If no member has yet been designated as such, the member or detective on standby. If the *victim* of the offence is a *child*, only a member trained by the FCS unit may be designated as *investigating officer*;
- (f) **“medical practitioner”** means a person registered as a medical practitioner in terms of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and who, for purposes of section 33 of *the Act*, is authorised to take blood samples as contemplated in Chapter 5 of the *Act*;
- (g) **“nurse”** means a person registered as such in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005) and who, for purposes of section 33 of *the Act*, is authorised to take blood samples as contemplated in Chapter 5 of the *Act*;
- (h) **“PEP”** means Post Exposure Prophylaxis, which is medical treatment to minimize the risk of HIV infection;

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- (i) **“public health establishment”**, means a place designated by the Minister of Health (set out in Annexure A) to provide *PEP* to *victims* and to carry out compulsory HIV testing;
- (j) **“sexual offence”** means any offence contained in Annexure B;
- (k) **“the Act”** means the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007); and
- (l) **“victim”** means a person, irrespective of gender or age, alleging that a *sexual offence* has been perpetrated against him or her.

3. Responsibility of Station Commissioner

- (1) Every station commissioner must liaise with local representatives of the Departments of Health (including representatives of *Public Health Establishments*, referred to in Annexure A, that are within the station area), the Department of Social Development, the local Community Police Forum and any other relevant local institution, to identify local organisations which are willing and able to provide counselling and other support services (including medical services) to *victims*.
- (2) After having identified the organisations referred to in subparagraph (1), the station commissioner must liaise with the said organisations to determine –
 - (a) the specific services that are rendered by each;
 - (b) whether the services are rendered after hours, during weekends and on public holidays, and, if so, the after hour contact numbers that may be used to access the services;
 - (c) whether the services are rendered free of charge or at a fee; and
 - (d) the contact particulars of each.
- (3) The station commissioner must compile a list of the relevant organisations and include in it, in respect of each organisation, at least the information referred to in subparagraph (2) as well as information relating to hospitals, ambulance services and *health care professionals* that may be contacted to provide medical treatment to *victims*.
- (4) The original list referred to in subparagraph (3) must be kept by the station commissioner who must update it at least once every six months.
- (5) The station commissioner must ensure that a copy of –
 - (a) *the Act*;
 - (b) the Regulations promulgated in terms thereof;
 - (c) this National Instruction;
 - (d) the station orders issued by him or her in terms of subparagraph (6); and
 - (e) the list referred to in subparagraph (3);

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are at all times available in the Community Service Centre and that a copy of the list referred to in subparagraph (3) is at all times available in each police vehicle at his or her station which is utilized to attend to complaints.

- (6) The station commissioner must, taking into account the unique circumstances prevailing in his or her specific station area, available resources, etc., issue station orders –
 - (a) requiring a member under his or her command to inform a *victim* of the services rendered by organisations mentioned in the list and how to inform the *victim* thereof (e.g. by providing the *victim* with a copy of the list or allowing the *victim* to peruse the list or reading the information from the list to the *victim*);
 - (b) setting out the steps that must be taken by such member to assist the *victim*, when requested thereto by the *victim*, to gain access to any service rendered by an organisation mentioned in the list or to obtain medical treatment should this be required; and
 - (c) in general, instructing members under his or her command on any other matter relating to the treatment of *victims* which he or she deems necessary to determine in respect of his or her specific station area.
- (7) Where a police station area forms part of a larger area consisting of more than one police station area and a radio control unit has been established to patrol and attend to complaints in such larger area, every station commissioner of a station in such larger area must, for information purposes, provide the commander of such radio control unit with a copy of –
 - (a) the list referred to in subparagraph (3) and, when he or she has updated the list, a copy of the updated version thereof; and
 - (b) a copy of the station orders issued in accordance with subparagraph (6) and, if he or she amends the orders, a copy of the updated version thereof.
- (8) The station commissioner must see to it that all functional members at his or her station receive in-service training (also at station meetings) on *the Act*, the Regulations, this Instruction and the station orders issued by him or her.

4. Receiving a report of a sexual offence at a police station

- (1) The alleged commission of a *sexual offence* is usually reported by —
 - (a) the *victim* of the offence;
 - (b) a family member, friend or colleague of the *victim*; or
 - (c) a person who witnessed or received information about the commission of the offence.
- (2) The person reporting the alleged commission of the offence, normally does so voluntarily (except in the circumstances referred to in

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subparagraph (3)) and is accordingly normally willing to provide all the information at his or her disposal to the police.

- (3) (a) In terms of section 54(1) of *the Act*, any person who has knowledge that a *sexual offence* has been committed against a *child*, must report such knowledge to a police official. A failure to do so, constitutes an offence, and a person convicted of such offence, may be sentenced to five years' imprisonment.
- (b) In terms of section 54(2) of *the Act*, any person who has knowledge or a reasonable belief or suspicion that a *sexual offence* has been committed against a mentally disabled person, must report such knowledge to a police official. A failure to do so, constitutes an offence, and a person convicted of such offence, may be sentenced to five years' imprisonment.
- (4) A person reporting his or her —
 - (i) knowledge that a *sexual offence* has been committed against a *child* or mentally disabled person; or
 - (ii) reasonable belief or suspicion that a *sexual offence* has been committed against a mentally disabled person,as a result of the legal duty to do so in terms of section 54 of *the Act*, may sometimes do so out of fear of being prosecuted if he or she fails to do so.
- (5) If a person (referred to in subparagraph (4)) reports such knowledge or his or her belief or suspicion to a police official, the member receiving the report may under no circumstances turn such a person away. Such a member must consider the information and —
 - (a) if the member is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that such an offence was indeed committed, take an affidavit from the person setting out the information provided by that person, open a docket for the investigation of the offence that was allegedly committed and register the docket on the CAS system; or
 - (b) if the member is not satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that such an offence was indeed committed, consult with the Community Service Centre Commander who must make a comprehensive OB entry of the report and the reasons why the Commander is not satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that such an offence was indeed committed and provide the number of the OB entry to the person who made the report. The entry must include sufficient particulars of the person that made the report to enable him or her to be located and be interviewed if this turns out to be necessary.
- (6) Any person who reports the alleged commission of a *sexual offence* to a member must be treated in a professional manner and must be reassured