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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2015 No. 541**

**The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015**

**PART 5**

Policies, records, complaints and notifications

**Policies for the protection of children**

- 34.**—(1) The registered person must prepare and implement a policy which—
- (a) is intended to safeguard children accommodated in the children's home from abuse or neglect; and
  - (b) sets out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect.
- (2) The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect must, in particular—
- (a) provide for liaison and co-operation with any local authority which are, or may be, making a child protection enquiry in relation to a child accommodated in the home;
  - (b) provide for the prompt referral of an allegation about current or ongoing abuse or neglect in relation to a child to the placing authority and, if different, the local authority in whose area the home is located;
  - (c) provide for the prompt referral of an allegation about past abuse or neglect in relation to a child to the placing authority and, if different, the local authority in whose area the alleged abuse or neglect occurred;
  - (d) provide for records to be kept of an allegation of abuse or neglect, and the action taken in response;
  - (e) describe the measures which may be necessary to protect children following an allegation of abuse or neglect; and
  - (f) describe how and to whom staff are to report, without delay, any concern about abuse or neglect of a child.
- (3) The registered person must prepare and implement a policy for the prevention of bullying in the home, which must in particular set out the procedure for dealing with an allegation of bullying.
- (4) The registered person must prepare and implement a policy (“the missing child policy”) setting out—
- (a) the steps taken, and to be taken, to prevent children from being absent without permission; and
  - (b) the procedures to be followed, and the roles and responsibilities of persons working at the home, in relation to a child who is, or has been, so absent.
- (5) Before implementing, or making an amendment which the registered person considers to be substantive to, the missing child policy, the registered person must—
- (a) consult, and take into account the views of, each relevant person; and

- (b) have regard to any relevant local authority or police protocols on missing children.
- (6) The registered person must keep under review and, as necessary, revise the home's child protection policies.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015, Section 34.