



Defence
Children
Services

What happens next?

Information for
parents and carers
DADO referral



Why are you receiving this leaflet?

You are receiving this leaflet as information has been received that alleges your child or a child you care for may have been harmed by an adult working in a position of trust.

The majority of people who work with children act professionally and aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for them. However, sometimes the behaviour of adults who work or volunteer with children and young people can result in allegations being made against them.

It is never acceptable for an adult in a position of trust to harm a child and therefore allegations or concerns about behaviour raised about staff, workers or volunteers in relation to children are taken seriously.

A safeguarding allegation is not the same as a complaint about a service.

What is the DADO?

Defence **A**llegations **D**esignated **O**fficer

The DADO is responsible for overseeing allegations about individuals who work with children. The work can be paid, unpaid or voluntary.

A concern can be in relation to the persons behaviour at work or outside of their workplace.

The DADO are not able to share specific information regarding the alleged person involved, but they will ensure that a named individual will keep you informed throughout the process.

This individual will hopefully already be known to you and your family and may come from: Welfare, Command, Employer or British Forces Social Work depending on the circumstances.

What happens next?

1. An allegation is reported to the DADO.
2. The DADO will decide if the allegation requires a Strategy Meeting to decide what further investigations are required.
3. If an investigation is required, the multi-agency group will decide whether this will be carried out by Royal Military Police, British Forces Social Work, the employer of the alleged, or a combination of agencies.
4. Somebody may wish to meet with your child to discuss the allegation. This will always be discussed with you beforehand.
5. Following the investigation, a decision will be made to conclude the outcome as; Substantiated, Unsubstantiated, Unfounded or Malicious.

Outcomes

Substantiated - There is sufficient evidence to prove allegations.

Unsubstantiated - This is not the same as a false allegation. It means that there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence.

Unfounded - There is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made. It might also indicate that the person making the allegation misinterpreted the incident or was mistaken about what they saw. Alternatively, they may not have been aware of all the circumstances.

Malicious - There is clear evidence to prove there has been a deliberate act to deceive and the allegation is entirely false.

False - There is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation.

Personal Support

The meeting will consider what the best support would be and who is the best person or agency to provide it for your child or a child you are caring for.

A named person will be identified to keep you informed of any developments throughout the process and you will be informed when the matter has been concluded.

Please speak to your Unit Welfare Officer if you or your family require any additional support during this process.

If your child is in a MOD School or Setting support staff are available.

If your child is in a Non-MOD School or Electively home educated; the Virtual Head Teacher is available also.

Contact: RC-DCS-HQ-OES@mod.gov.uk

If your child is pre-school age and not accessing any provision, your Health Visitor can also provide support.