

**Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA)
Child and Youth¹ Serious Injury and Death Classification**

OCYA Classification Type – INJURY	Incident Type
Physical Harm (PH)	<p>A physical injury to a child or youth that may be <u>self-inflicted or accidental.</u></p> <p>To be considered within the mandate of OCYA, <u>the injury must involve more than minor soft tissue damage.</u></p> <p>Examples of physical harm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Broken, fractured or dislocated bones b) Head injury c) Bruises or burns d) Puncture wounds or wounds requiring stitches e) Injuries arising from poisoning (ingestion of cleaning products, etc.) (excludes substance abuse which is classified as substance-related harm) f) Injuries arising from neglect (the failure to meet a child or youth’s basic physical and/or psychological needs resulting in impairment of health and/or development - includes dental neglect) g) Life-threatening or serious medical conditions or events (disordered eating, asphyxia, etc.) h) Self-harm (cutting, burning, etc.) i) Other accidental or unintentional injuries

¹A child and youth is defined as any person under the age of 18 years.



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<p>Physical Assault (PA)</p>	<p>A physical injury to a child or youth that was <u>inflicted by another</u> person.</p> <p>To be considered within the mandate of the OCYA, <u>the injury must involve more than minor soft tissue damage.</u></p> <p>Examples of injuries arising from physical assault:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Broken, fractured or dislocated bones b) Head injury c) Bruises or burns d) Puncture wounds or wounds requiring stitches e) Gunshot wounds <p>Where physical assault is relational/domestic violence and does not result in injury or involves only minor soft tissue, code as Emotional Harm.</p>
<p>Sexualized Violence (SV)</p>	<p>A sexualized act committed on a child or youth without their consent where the child or youth is not able to consent due to age, mental capacity, or other factors.</p> <p>Sexual violence includes physical acts and acts without physical contact.</p> <p>Examples of sexualized violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sexual assault (non-consensual sexual act perpetrated on a child or youth including oral sex, vaginal or anal penetration) b) Sexual touching (touching of the genital area/breasts of a child or youth or encouraging or forcing the child or youth to touch another's genital area for a sexual purpose) c) Sexual exploitation- contact (sexual abuse of a child or youth through the exchange of sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, life necessities, and/or money) d) Sexual exploitation – noncontact (collection and distribution of images, luring a child online for sexual purposes)

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<p>Substance-Related Harm (SR)</p>	<p>The use of drugs, alcohol, or other substances by a child or youth in a way that caused or may cause a serious injury.</p> <p>For substance misuse to be within the mandate of the OCYA it <u>must have led to a serious injury or possible serious injury</u> of a child or youth.</p> <p>Examples of substance-related harm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Overdose on illicit drugs such as cocaine, heroin, fentanyl b) Overdose on prescribed medications or unknown substances c) Alcohol intoxication d) Abuse of other substances (inhalants, etc.)
<p>Suicide Attempt, Suicidal Ideation (SASI)</p>	<p>A suicide attempt is a non-fatal attempt to take one's life.</p> <p>Suicidal ideation refers to thinking about or planning suicide where the child or youth had the means available at the time to attempt suicide.</p> <p>To be considered within the mandate of the OCYA the attempt or ideation <u>must have led to a serious injury or have been intended to lead to a serious injury or death.</u></p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A suicide attempt with injuries that may cause long-term impairment or death (e.g. attempting to overdose in a suicide attempt but being resuscitated) b) A suicide attempt without serious injuries, but the potential, or belief, of a serious injury c) Suicide ideation in proximity to potentially injurious means

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<p>Emotional Harm (EH)</p>	<p>An action or inaction that has the potential to cause serious or long-term emotional or psychological harm to a child or youth.</p> <p>To be considered within the mandate of the OCYA the action or inaction <u>must reasonably be seen as having the potential to cause serious or long-term emotional or psychological injury.</u></p> <p>Examples of emotional harm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Threats to harm the child or youth b) Kidnapping or abduction c) Inappropriate use of behaviour management methods (chemical or physical restraints, withholding food, isolation) d) Ongoing failure to meet a child or youth’s basic physical and/or psychological needs e) Exposure to domestic violence in the absence of physical injury to the child or youth or with injury involving only soft tissue damage (physical injury involving more than soft tissue damage is to be coded as physical assault)
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OCYA Classification Type - DEATH	Incident Type
<p>Accidental (Unintentional)</p>	<p>The death of a child or youth as a result of an accident, by means other than natural death, homicide, or suicide.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Drowning b) Fall c) Fire/Smoke/Burns d) Gun Shot Wound e) Poisoning f) Transport Accidents
<p>Homicide</p>	<p>When the life of a child or youth is intentionally taken by another person.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assault b) Drowning c) Fire/smoke/burns d) Gun Shot Wound e) Asphyxiation
<p>Natural</p>	<p>When a child/youth dies by natural causes – this is often due to mitigating medical factors, such as a terminal illness or congenital birth defects.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Congenital malformations, chromosomal abnormalities b) Malignant neoplasms c) Infections/sepsis

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<p>Suicide</p>	<p>The deliberate, intentional taking of one’s life – this is a death caused by self-inflicted illness or injury.</p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Drowning b) Fall c) Gun Shot Wound d) Cutting/Slashing/Stabbing e) Hanging f) Overdose/Poisoning
<p>Undetermined</p>	<p>A death where the coroner cannot determine how the child or youth died – this may be due to lack of information, an ongoing investigation, or equal evidence towards multiple possible causes of death (for example, it may not be clear if the death was accidental or a homicide, or accidental or a suicide)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Unknown, awaiting coroner’s report b) Coroner determination

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