

## **Definition of Methamphetamine Manufacture as Child Abuse**

The criminal manufacture of methamphetamines is defined as child abuse when it is done under any of the following circumstances:

- A child is present
- It is manufactured in a child's home, on the premises of a child's home or in a motor vehicle on the premises of a child's home or
- It is manufactured under any other circumstances where a reasonable person should have known that the manufacture would be seen, smelled or heard by a child

### **What are methamphetamines?**

You have probably heard the term “meth” or “crystal meth”. Methamphetamine is a stimulant drug for the central nervous system that is legally available only through a prescription and is highly addictive. It is possible to manufacture it in illegal labs such as homes, garages or other places. Even short-term exposure to chemical vapors in these labs can cause severe health problems, particularly for children, or death. Illegal labs can explode and burn, and they produce a large amount of dangerous chemical waste which may be dumped in the yard where children play. Illegal meth labs are generally handled as a Hazardous Material (Hazmat) site.

### **How does the manufacture of methamphetamines compare with other types of maltreatment?**

As in physical and sexual abuse, the manufacture of methamphetamines under the above conditions could be done by any person, not just a caregiver. Also, as in physical neglect, the child need not have been harmed yet by exposure to the manufacturing process for it to be abuse.