

Street Children reference card: Metro Police/CCID

Side 1:

Standard Operating Procedure for the removal of a street child

When a street child is taken off the street by one of your officers, please report the matter to the nearest local office of Social Development, or alternatively contact the Department of Social Development's Hotline number (082 227 0478). The Department will assign a social worker to the case.

The assigned social worker can accompany your unit and the child to the Department of Social Development's Lindelani place of safety. Before arrival at Lindelani, the social worker should alert the DSD central admissions office numbers (listed on the reverse of this card) to ensure that the facility is ready to receive the child. If you remove a child from the street after-hours, you may take the child directly to Lindelani, but please call the after-hours numbers provided beforehand.

On arrival, the child will be assessed in a reception room, and admitted with a form 36. You may then leave the child in the care of the facility.

Side 2:

The Children's Act defines a street child as a child who has left their home, family, or community and lives, begs, or works on the streets. It includes children who spend the day on the streets but return to their homes at night. The Act regards street children as *children in need of care and protection*.

Street children usually require emergency intervention due to their immediate risk of exposure to harmful drug use, exploitation and/or traffic injury. As such, the municipal authority may intervene to assist them by bringing the child to the Department of Social Development.

Some Tips when assisting a street child:

- Staff should not attempt to collect or transport a street child alone.
- When transporting a street child, the vehicle's child locks should be engaged.
- If child travels in the back seat, at least one adult should be in the back seat with the child.
- The less a child is moved from one vehicle to another, and/or from one building to another, the lower the risk that the child will attempt to abscond and/or engage in a physical struggle.
- This card applies to street children who are not accompanied by their parents or legal guardians. If a child is living or begging on the street with his or her parent/s, a social worker should be alerted so that he or she may conduct a full assessment. If removal of the child is contemplated, the social worker will approach the court for an order in terms of section 151 of the Children's Act, 38/2005 prior to attempting removal of the child.

Contact numbers:

Central admissions: 021 987 2485; After hours admissions: Charlotte September - 072 929 6368; Leana Goosen - 079 358 6659 All Hours hotline: 082 227 0478 More details are available on request from the Office of the Head of Department of Social Development. Email: melissa.abrahams@westerncape.gov.za