

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IV-A CALABARZON



ESSD-RM-2025-517

08 July 2025

Regional Memorandum
No. 517 s. 2025

**PROMOTION OF LEARNERS SAFETY AND IMPLEMENTATION
MEASURES TO PREVENT BULLYING AND RELATED
INCIDENTS OF MISBEHAVIOR**

To: **Schools Division Superintendents**

1. In reference to DepEd Order No. 18, s. 2015¹, DepEd Order No. 55, s. 2013², DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012³, and Regional Memorandum No. 217, s. 2021⁴, this Office reiterates the promotion of learners safety and implementation measures to prevent bullying, hooliganism and related incidents of misbehavior in Schools through Schools Division Offices.
2. This aims to ensure that proactive measures are implemented, strengthen the implementation of the policies, promote accountability, collaboration, and guide the Schools Division Offices on issuing contextualized and responsive policies that will aid the schools in their school-based efforts to ensure a safe and motivating environment for learners.
3. Relative to this, all schools in the region must establish, strengthen, and institutionalize mechanisms that safeguard learners from all forms of physical, psychological, emotional, and cyber-related harm. These mechanisms must involve all stakeholders and strictly implement comprehensive policies and programs; integrate values education, conflict resolution, and anti-bullying sessions throughout the school year.
4. All schools through the SDOs shall also submit regular reports on incidents and interventions to this Office, as required by DepEd policies, and maintain records of all cases and actions taken for monitoring and evaluation.

¹ Guidelines and Procedures on the Management of Children-At-Risk (CAR) and Children-In-Conflict-with-the-Law (CICL)

² Implementing Rules and Regulations on the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013

³ DepEd Child Protection Policy

⁴ Guidelines on the Express System of Reporting and Intervention of Child Abuse, Discrimination Against Children, Child Exploitation, Violence Against Children in School, Corporal Punishment, and any analogous or similar incidents and Bullying incidents in DepEd CALABARZON






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5. In addition, the schools shall impose positive discipline on all learner-offenders commensurate with the gravity of the offense and follow the specific steps and measures for handling such incidents, including suggested strategies as mandated under DO 40, s. 2012, DO 55, s. 2013, DO 18, s. 2015, and DO 88, s. 2010 and as localized under Regional Memorandum No. 217, s. 2021. **Annex A** is attached for reference.
6. For further details, you may contact Eduarda M. Zapanta, Chief Education Supervisor of ESSD, or Ms. Rochelle May M. Nisola, Alternate Learner Rights and Protection Focal Person, through email at essd.calabarzon@deped.gov.ph.
7. Immediate dissemination and strict compliance with this Memorandum are desired.


ATTY. ALBERTO T. ESCOBARTE, CESO II
 Regional Director 

Annex A (Relevant Provisions from Regional No. 217, s. 2021) about DO 40, s. 2012, DO 55, s. 2013, DO 18, s. 2015, and DO 88, s. 2010

Section 9 of RM 217, s. 2021: Committee on Student Discipline: Its Composition, and Functions (Classification of Offenses)

<p>Light Offenses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. uttering profanities/swear words inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school; b. disruptive behavior in class or within the school premises or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school; c. grabbing others' belongings (toys, things, food, etc.) inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school; d. simple vandalism inside the classroom or school premises (equivalent amount does not exceed Php500.00). Vandalism is marking or damaging school property. e. inflicting slight physical injuries to another learner inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school; f. punching, pinching another learner, which does not involve serious physical injuries, inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school; g. fighting in class/school premises or during school-sanctioned activities, which do not involve serious physical injuries; h. cursing, wolf-whistling, catcalling, leering, and intrusive gazing, taunting, pursing, unwanted invitations, misogynistic, transphobic,
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	<p>homophobic, and sexist slurs, persistent unwanted comments on one's appearance, relentless requests for one's details such as name, contact and social media details or destination, the use of words, gestures or actions that ridicule based on sex, gender or sexual orientation, identity and/or expression including sexist, homophobic, and transphobic statements and slurs, the persistent telling of sexual jokes, use of sexual names, comments and demands, and any statement that has made an invasion on person's personal space or threatens the person's sense of personal safety inside the classroom, school premises or during school sanctioned activities whether inside or outside the school;</p>
Less Serious or Less Grave Offenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. simple stalking inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school; j. simple vandalism in class or inside the school premises (equivalent amount does not exceed Php 1,000.00); k. Assaulting or inflicting less serious physical injuries to another learner or teacher, or school personnel inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school. Less serious physical injuries are those that require medical intervention for more than 10 days but not more than 15 days. l. theft or stealing others' belongings inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school; cheating/dishonesty during class assessment/exams. n. allowing another student to copy one's answer in exams, or assigned homework, or similar assessments, whether for personal reasons,

	<p>profit or gain (<i>sagot for sale</i>);</p> <p>o. Intimidating or threatening a teacher or learner/pupil/student inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>p. possession of gambling materials inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>q. carrying and concealing liquor, toxic substances, cigarettes/e-cigarettes/vapes, and pornographic materials inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>r. offensive physical or body gestures at someone, and exposing private parts for the sexual gratification of the offender with the effect of demeaning, harassing, threatening or intimidating the offended party including flashing of private parts, public masturbation, groping, and similar lewd sexual actions committed inside the classroom, school premises or during school sanctioned activities whether inside or outside the school;</p>
Serious or Grave Offenses	<p>s. bullying which refers to any severe, or repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another student that has the effect of actually causing or placing the latter in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm or damage to his property; creating a hostile environment at school for the other student; infringing on the rights of another student at school; or materially and substantially disrupting the education process or the orderly operation of a school or activity; such as, but not limited to the following:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Any unwanted physical contact between the bully and the victim like punching, pushing, shoving, kicking, slapping, tickling, headlocks, inflicting school pranks, teasing, fighting and the use of available objects as weapons inside the classroom, school premises or during school sanctioned activities whether inside or outside the school;2. Any act that causes damage to a victim's psyche and/or emotional well-being inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities inside or outside the school;3. Any slanderous statement or accusation that causes the victim undue emotional distress, like directing foul language or profanity at the target, name-calling, tormenting, and commenting negatively on the victim's look, clothes, and body committed inside the classroom, school premises or during school sanctioned activities whether inside or outside the school;4. "Cyber-bullying" or any bullying done through the use of technology or any electronic means committed inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school. The term shall also include any conduct resulting to harassment, intimidation, or humiliation, through the use of other forms of technology, such as, but not limited to texting, email, instant messaging, chatting, internet, social media, online games, or other platforms for formats as defined in DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012; and5. Any other form of bullying as may be
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provided in the school's child protection or anti-bullying policy.

The term "bullying" shall also include:

1. "Social bullying" refers to any deliberate, repetitive, and aggressive social behavior intended to hurt others or to belittle another individual or group based on origin or ethnicity.

2. "Gender-based bullying" refers to any act that humiliates or excludes a person based on perceived or actual sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

t. libel, oral defamation, or commission of which in cyberspace is committed inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;

u. alteration or use of falsified school records or credentials during enrolment or for a similar purpose;

v. inflicting serious physical injuries to another learner inside the classroom, school premises or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school. Serious physical injuries are those that require medical intervention for more than 15 days.

w. use, possession, or sale of prohibited drugs or substances inside the school premises or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;

x. . smoking cigarettes/e-cigarettes/vapes, marijuana inside the school premises or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;

y. serious vandalism inside the classroom or school premises (equivalent amount exceeds Php 1,000.00);

z. gambling inside the school premises or during

	<p>school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>aa. seriously threatening students or faculty members, or school personnel inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>bb. seriously assaulting or inflicting serious physical injuries to a teacher or school personnel inside the classroom, school premises, or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>cc. drinking liquor inside the school or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school, or coming to the school intoxicated;</p> <p>dd. acts of lasciviousness, sexual exploitation, sexual assault or rape committed inside the classroom, school premises or during school sanctioned activities whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>ee. carrying and concealing deadly weapons inside the school premises or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>ff. homicide or murder committed by learner/pupil/student in the school or during school-sanctioned activities, whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>gg. hazing in any form inside or outside the school premises;</p> <p>hh. qualified stalking accompanied by touching, pinching or brushing against the body of the offended person; or any touching, pinching, or brushing against the genitalia, face, arms, anus, groin, breasts, inner thighs, face, buttocks or any part of the victim's body committed inside the classroom, school premises or during school sanctioned activities whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>ii. Gender-based online sexual abuse/harassment</p>
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	<p>includes acts that use information and communications technology in terrorizing and intimidating victims through physical, psychological, and emotional threats, unwanted sexual misogynistic, transphobic, homophobic and sexist remarks and comments online whether publicly or through direct and private messages, invasion of victim's privacy through cyberstalking and incessant messaging, uploading and sharing without the consent of the victim, any form of media that contains photos, voice, or video with sexual content, any unauthorized recording and sharing of any of the victim's photos, videos, or any information online, impersonating identities of victims online or posting lies about victims to harm their reputation, or filing, false abuse reports to online platforms to silence victims committed inside the classroom, school premises or during school sanctioned activities whether inside or outside the school;</p> <p>jj. uploading and sharing one's or another student's recorded/live video, photo, or voice with sexual content in the social media or to any person willing to pay for purposes of gain or profit committed inside the classroom, school premises or during school sanctioned activities whether inside or outside the school <i>(online sex for sale)</i></p>
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Section 15 of RM 217, s. 2021: Intervention Programs

Intervention Programs for learners/pupils/students shall be under the direct and close supervision of the RGC/Guidance Teacher/Coordinator with the assistance of support persons such as CPC, SSG, Adviser, LSWDO-DSWD, and RGCs of NGOs or civic organizations.

The following are suggested intervention programs involving the learner-victim, learner-offender, their parents, and the community, depending on the needs and assessments:

Primary Level Interventions:

1. Positive Youth Development Programs engage young people in proactive and constructive activities geared towards developing their strengths and character.
2. Parent-Child Integration Program, which allows family encounters and bonding.
3. School-Wide Behavior Management Program using positive discipline and a non-violent approach to student discipline concerns;
4. Values Formation Activities and Life Skills Training for children;
5. Health Services; and
6. Seminars, Workshops, and Trainings that promote awareness on the effect of risky behaviors, enhance parent effectiveness skills, develop coping and adjustment skills, and explore venues that provide for home-school-community collaboration to achieve the goal of primary intervention.

Secondary Level Interventions:

1. Guidance and Counselling;
2. Peer Counselling;
3. Behavior Management Program, such as anger management and conflict resolution;
4. Parenting Programs;
5. Home Visitation Service;
6. Mentoring Program;
7. After-school activities such as remedial classes and extra-curricular activities;
8. Referral of Children with special needs to trained professionals such as DSWD, NGOs, and civic organizations;
9. Psychosocial Interventions;
10. Family Therapy in coordination with the LSWDO-DSWD, and
11. Family Drug Abuse Prevention Program

Tertiary Level Interventions:

These are interventions to avoid unnecessary problems with the formal justice system and to prevent the learner from re-offending. The intervention aims to ensure continuous education of the learner through Alternative Learning System,

Alternative Delivery Mode, Home Study Programs, Internet-Based Distance Education Program, Accreditation and Equivalency Program, among others.

Other Prevention/Intervention/Mitigations

(Source: Schools Division Offices responses, July 09, 2025)

1. Data-driven planning and monitoring
2. Early dissemination of Data Collection tools
3. Regular provision of technical assistance to all schools to ensure functionality of Child Protection Committees (CPCs).

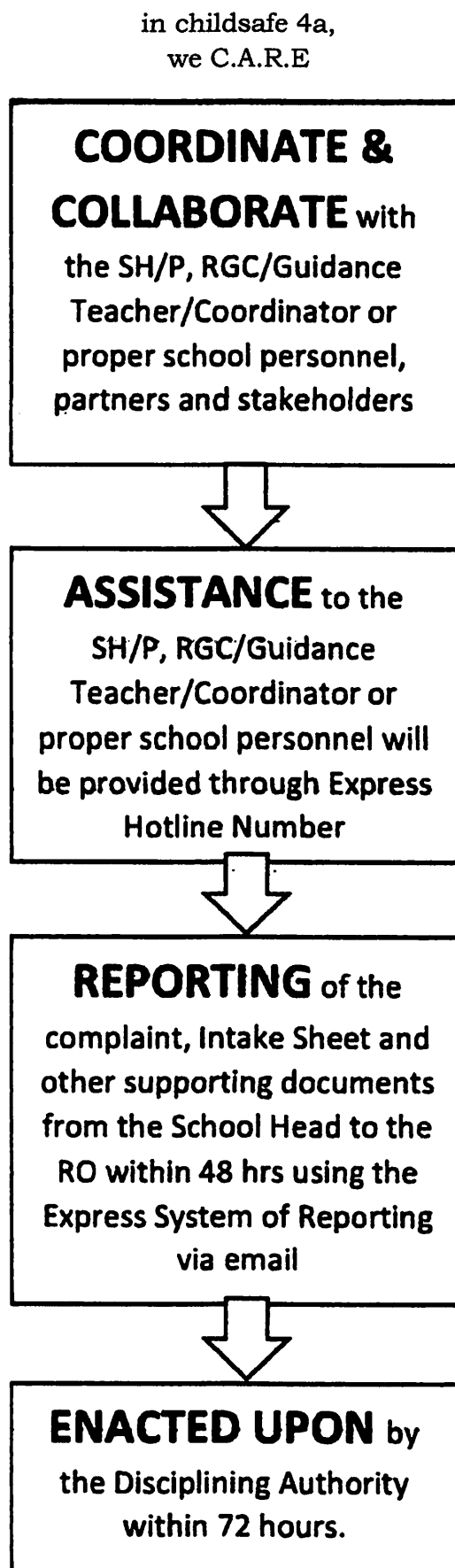
Section 16 of RM 217, s. 2021: Diagram of Procedures**Figure 1. We C.A.R.E. Diagram**

Figure 2. The School receives a complaint or report of incident of Child Abuse or other forms of abuse or prohibited acts committed by a public school teacher or any school personnel.

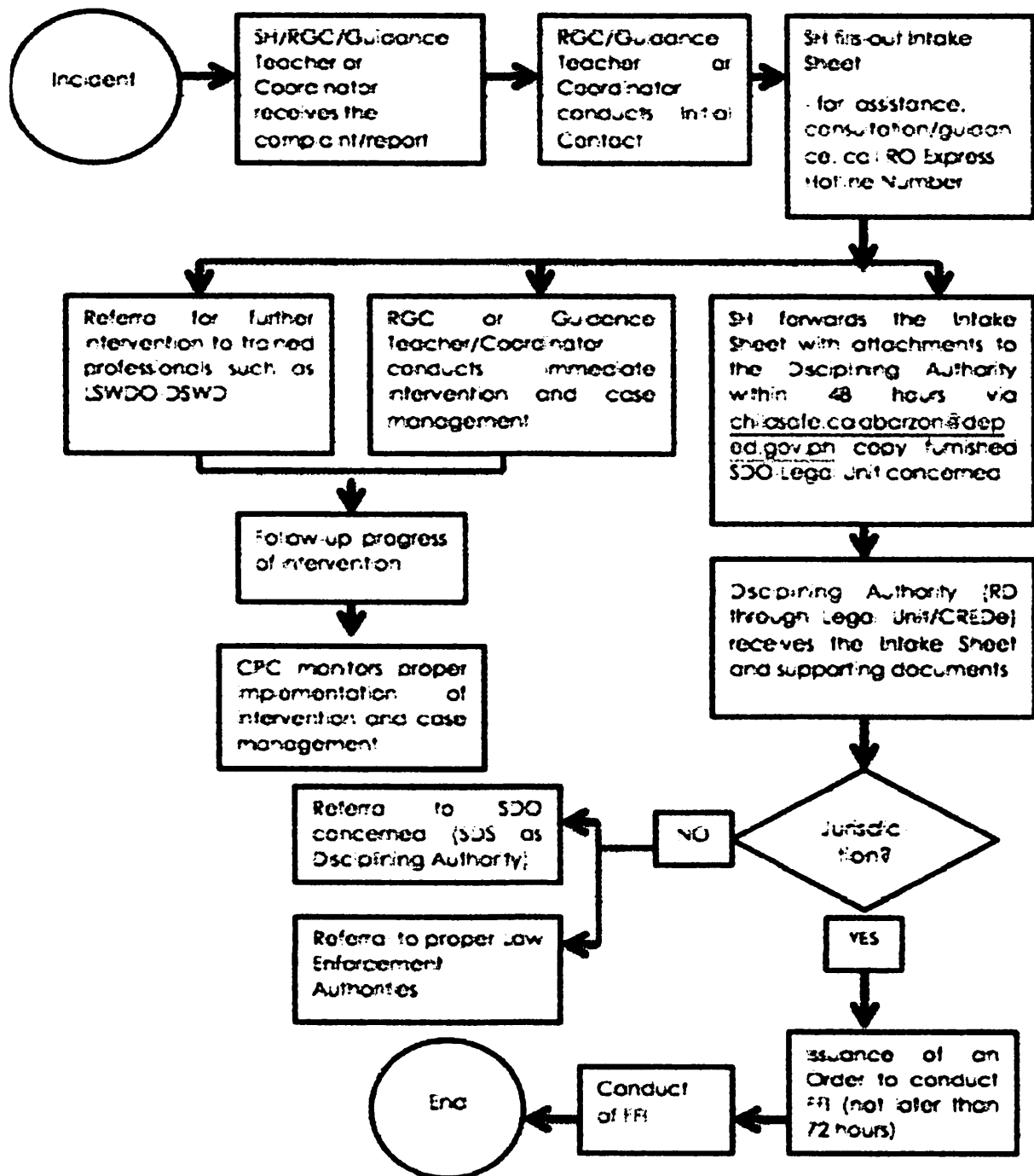


Figure 3. The School receives a complaint or report on incident of bullying or other forms or any violation of the rules and regulations of the school or any of the offenses mentioned in this Guidelines (Student Discipline).

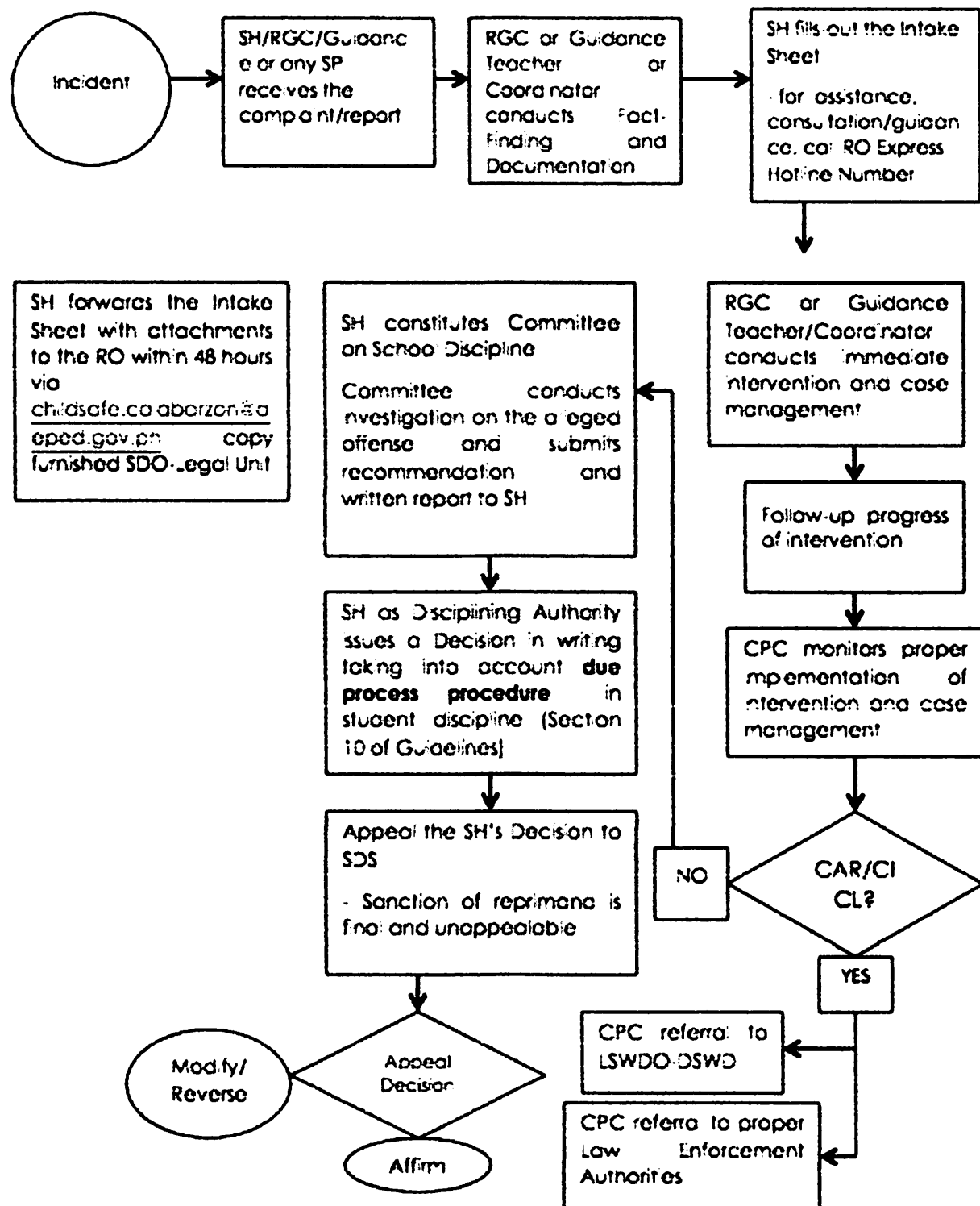


Figure 4. Walk-in complaint or report of Child Abuse Incident received by Regional Office using the Express System of Reporting either thru Email or Hotline Number (**Incomplete Documents** or no Intake Sheet and supporting documents).

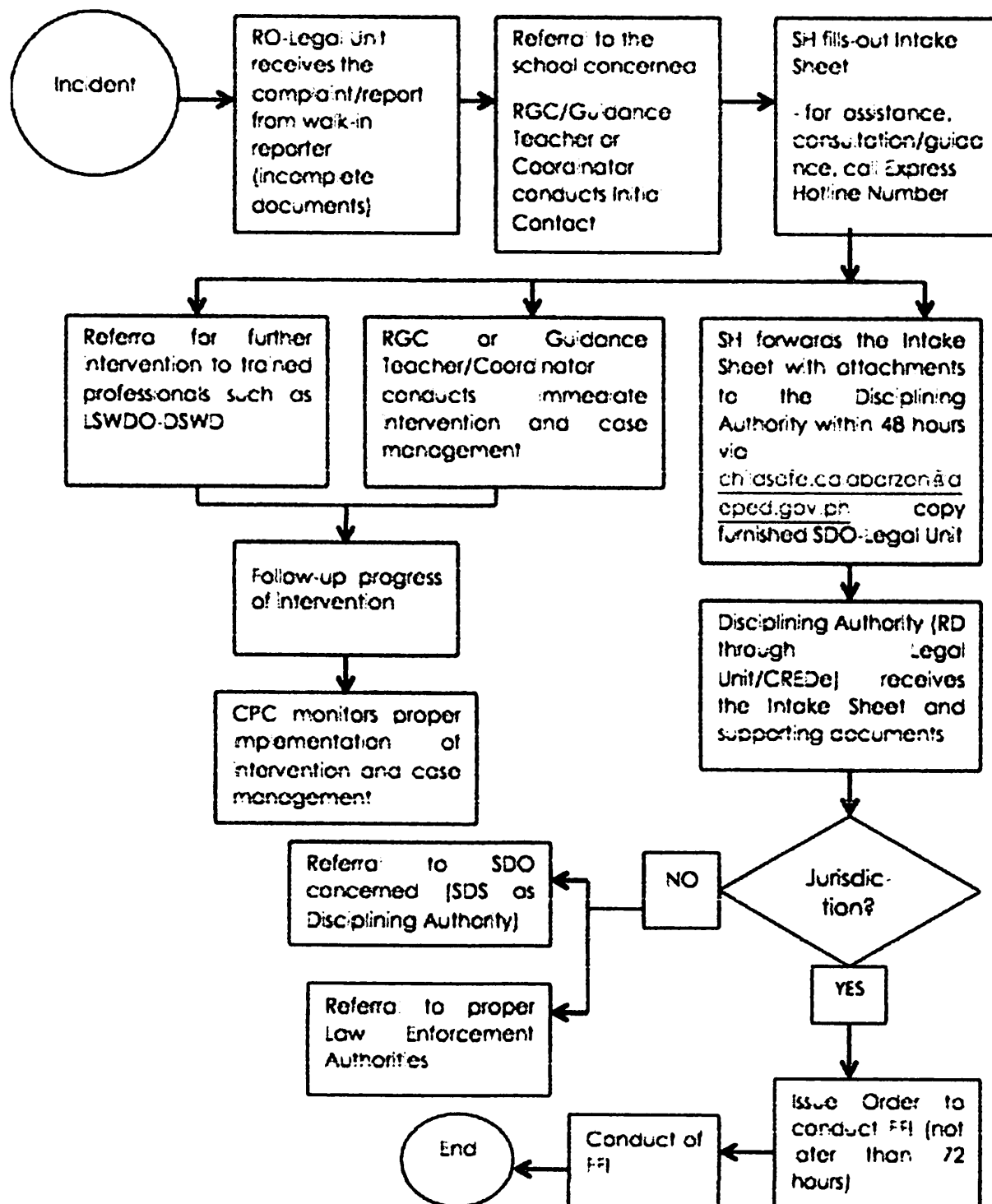


Figure 5. Conduct of Intervention Program and Referral for further interventions (case collaboration).

