



Ambulance at soccer

An ambulance officer gets a call-out while attending to an injured player at her son's game. How will this be perceived?

The story

Josie is a single mum to 8-year old Harry, who is a keen soccer player with mild cerebral palsy. His club have been very inclusive and supportive, and Harry's confidence, social and motor skills have blossomed in the time he has been playing on the team. She is on the board for his soccer club and always goes to every match.

Josie is on-call clinical support officer for Central Ambulance Station for the weekend, and is driving a rapid response car. Harry's team is playing a friendly-fundraiser at Wateringbury, 30 minutes from the Station. They have just gone 2-1 up in the closing minutes when one of Harry's opponents falls and hurts his ankle. Harry calls out, "Mum, quick! He's broken his ankle!"

Josie runs onto the pitch to have a look, and just has enough time to see how quickly the ankle is swelling, when she gets a call-out and leaves immediately to back up an acute pulmonary oedema (APO).

A member of the public complains to the service that "an ambulance vehicle, paid for at my expense, was just sitting at the soccer for hours. Why wasn't it out saving people?"

The coach of the opposing team rings the service to complain that Josie just "disgracefully abandoned our lad with a broken leg".

Questions

1. What are the ethical issues around this situation?
2. Should Josie have stayed and attended to the boy with the ankle injury? Why? Why not?
3. What could be done to address the issues?

The information used in this scenario is not factual – we created it for education and discussion. Any likeness to actual persons or events is coincidental.



The Commission can help

We are available to provide support and assistance with identifying, reporting, investigating, managing and preventing misconduct: prevention@integrity.tas.gov.au or 1300 720 289.

For more Misconduct Prevention resources go to www.integrity.tas.gov.au/resources