

Reporting Child Abuse

1. As defined by the Child Protection Act of 1987, “child abuse or neglect” means an act or omission in one of the following categories which threatens the health or welfare of a child:
 - a. Any case in which a child exhibits evidence of skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition failure to thrive, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, or soft tissue swelling, and such condition is not justifiably explained, or where the history given concerning such condition is at variance with the degree or type of such condition, or circumstances indicate that such condition may not be the product of an accidental occurrence.
 - b. Any case in which a child is subjected to sexual assault or molestation, sexual exploitation, or prostitution.
 - c. Any case in which the child’s parent, legal guardian, or custodian fails to take the same action to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or supervision that a prudent parent would take.
 - d. Any case in which the child is subjected to emotional abuse that creates an identifiable and substantial impairment of the child’s intellectual or psychological functioning or development, or a substantial risk of impairment of the child’s intellectual or psychological functioning or development.
2. An act of a teacher or other school official or employee is not considered child abuse if (1) the act was performed in good faith and in compliance with the District’s discipline code; or (2) the act was an appropriate expression of affection or emotional support.
3. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that any child has been subjected to abuse or neglect must immediately report those facts to the principal and to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. This oral report should be followed at once by a written report sent by the employee through the principal to the Assistant Superintendent.
4. When reporting suspected child abuse or neglect, the reporting person should include, to the extent possible, the following information:

- a. name, age, address, sex and race of the child;
 - b. name and address of the child's parents, guardians and/or persons with whom he is living;
 - c. name and address of the person believed responsible for the suspected abuse or neglect, if known;
 - d. nature and extent of the child's injury or condition;
 - e. any evidence of previous instances of known or suspected abuse or neglect of the child or the child's siblings, and names and addresses of the persons responsible for previous abuse or neglect, if known—all with dates as appropriate;
 - f. family composition;
 - g. source of the report and name, address and occupation of the person making the report;
 - h. any action taken by the person making the report;
 - i. any other information that might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries or the condition observed.
5. The Assistant Superintendent shall be responsible for immediately contacting Social Services or law enforcement, using such procedures and forms as may be required by that agency. The administrator shall promptly inform the staff person initiating the report that a written report has been made to the appropriate agency.
 6. After the report is made to the agency, district and school staff members will make themselves available for meeting with representatives of Social Services or law enforcement to facilitate communication. The school will report any further incidents of abuse to the Social Services representative or law enforcement agent and will cooperate in the investigation of alleged abuse or neglect.
 7. Social Services or law enforcement will direct the course of the investigation. It is not the responsibility of the school staff to investigate the case.
 8. Any information received by District personnel pertaining to the investigation or services being provided to the child, should only be shared with those school

personnel directly involved with the child's educational program. School personnel receiving such information shall treat it as confidential.

Approved: June 2, 1986

Revised: May 2000