
Child Abuse Reporting Policies and Procedures

Persons and Officials Required to Report Cases of Suspected Child Abuse (5413) and Reporting Procedure (5415)

Any school district employee must report suspected cases of child abuse or maltreatment to the school officials. In accordance with the Social Services Law 413, the following procedure should be followed if a staff member suspects abuse or maltreatment of a child:

1. Notify the building principal immediately of your suspicions. If the principal is unavailable, notify the official designee.
2. The Building Principal is required to inform the Superintendent of the information received.
3. The Building Principal is responsible for making the call to Central Registry. If the principal or designee is not available, the psychologist or registered nurse will place the call. They are required to notify the building principal of the call as soon as possible.

The law provides immunity from liability for the school official making such a report in good faith (8419). Any school district employee found to have made an erroneous report would be subject to disciplinary action.

1-800-342-3720

Penalties for Failure to Report (5420)

Social Services Law 420 provides legal penalties for failure to report cases of suspected child abuse which is a class A misdemeanor, including liability for damages proximately caused by such failure.

Obligations of Persons Required to Report (S416)

Any staff member who suspects child abuse shall immediately notify the person in charge who shall then take or cause to be taken at public expenses color photographs of visible trauma and shall, if medically indicated, cause to be performed a radiological examination on the child.

Protective Custody of Abused Children (S417)

Police officer, law enforcement official, physician, person in charge of any hospital or similar institution, or child protective services worker shall take all appropriate measures to protect a child's life and health including, when appropriate,

taking or keeping a child in protective custody without the consent of a parent or guardian if such person has reasonable cause to believe that the circumstances or condition of the child are such that continuing in his/her place of residence or in the care and custody of the parent, guardian, custodian or other person responsible for the child's care presents an imminent danger to the child's life or health. (S417)

It is the responsibility of all members of the school staff to follow the above reporting procedure if there is reason to believe a child's life or health is in imminent danger.

Reporting Deaths (S418)

Any person or official required to report cases of suspected child abuse or maltreatment who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child died as a result of child abuse or maltreatment shall report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner.

It is the responsibility of all school staff members to follow the above reporting procedures if death due to child abuse or maltreatment of a child is suspected.

Training

The school board and administration will establish and maintain a training program for all current and new school employees regarding these policies and procedures.

(S3209-a)