



Policy for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

Purpose: To ensure the healthy growth and development of all children by reporting suspected cases of child maltreatment or abuse.

Schools shall comply with the North Carolina law requiring all adults to report suspected child maltreatment as stated in G.S. 7B-301 and Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

Who Must Report

North Carolina's reporting law applies to every person and every institution in the state. It requires "[a]ny person or institution who has cause to suspect that any juvenile is abused, neglected, or dependent, as defined by G.S. 7B-101, or has died as the result of maltreatment" to make a report to the county department of social services. The reporting requirement applies to doctors, social workers, therapists, teachers, law enforcement officers, and others whose professions sometimes involve them directly with problems of abuse, neglect, or dependency. It applies equally, though, to housing inspectors, store clerks, co-workers, friends, relatives, bystanders, and all others.

Chapter § 115C-400. School personnel to report child abuse. Any person who has cause to suspect child abuse or neglect has a duty to report the case of the child to the Director of Social Services of the county, as provided in the Juvenile Code.

How to Report

A report must be made to the county Department of Social Services in person, by telephone or in writing. It must be made to the Department of Social Services in the county where the child lives or is found, even if the child's legal residence is in another county or state.

The report should include as much of the following information as the person reporting knows:

- the child's name, age, and address;
- the name and address of the child's parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker;
- the names and ages of other children in the home;
- the child's location if the child is not at the home address;
- the nature and extent of any injury or condition resulting from abuse, neglect or dependency;
- and
- any other information that might help to establish the need for protective services or court

intervention.

Additionally, law also requires the person who makes a report must provide his or her name, address and telephone number.

Any School Faculty or Staff member who suspects abuse is required to report to the local Department of Social Services (DSS) providing the information listed above. All School Employees who suspect child abuse or neglect, will report it to DSS immediately. If an employee makes a report to DSS they must inform the Director of the details of the report. All School employees will receive training on how to report suspected child abuse. The Director and School Counselor are available to all staff for support or questions relating to this matter.

The Managing Director must report immediately to the appropriate local law enforcement agency whenever the Director has personal knowledge or actual notice from School personnel that any of the following acts has occurred on School property:

- assault resulting in serious personal injury
- sexual assault
- sexual offense
- rape
- kidnapping
- indecent liberties with a minor
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

This reporting requirement applies regardless of the age or status of the person thought to have committed the act. School grounds includes any School building, bus, campus, grounds, recreational area or athletic field. In addition to the School's reporting requirements under N.C.G.S. Section 115C-288(g) and under any other state or federal law or regulation, the School may take any lawful action it deems appropriate, including reporting any suspected criminal activity to authorities, whether or not such activity occurred on School Property.