

454R REPORTING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT: PROCEDURES

Reportable Conditions

State law defines reportable conditions as being any situation in which there is reasonable cause to suspect a child seen in the course of professional duties has been abused or neglected or when there is reason to believe a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that the abuse or neglect of the child will occur.

Definitions (as defined by state law)

Abuse

1. Physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means
2. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact (section 940.225, 948.02 or 948.025 of the state statutes)
3. Sexual exploitation of a child (section 940.05 of the state statutes)
4. Permitting, allowing or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution (section 944.30 of the state statutes)
5. Causing a child to view or listen to sexual activity (section 948.055 of the state statutes)
6. Causing a child to expose genitals or pubic area or exposing genitals or public area to a child (section 948.10 of the state statutes)
7. Emotional damage for which the child's parent, guardian or legal custodian has neglected, refused or been unable for reasons other than poverty to obtain the necessary treatment or to take steps to ameliorate the symptoms. "Emotional damage" means harm to a child's psychological or intellectual functioning. It shall be evidenced by one or more of the following characteristics exhibited to a severe degree: anxiety, depression, withdrawal, outward aggressive behavior, or a substantial and observable change in behavior, emotional response or cognition that is not within the normal range for the child's age and stage development.

Neglect

"Neglect" means failure, refusal or inability on the part of a parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person exercising temporary or permanent control over a child, for reasons other than poverty, to provide necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care or shelter so as to seriously endanger the physical health of the child.

Mandatory Reporter

Any of the following persons who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse/neglect: nurse, medical or mental health professional, social worker, counselor, teacher, administrator, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or other school personnel having contact with students.

Procedures for Reporting Suspected Cases of Child Abuse or Neglect

Any school employee covered under the law and School Board policy, who suspects that a child has been abused, neglected or believes that a child has been threatened with abuse and that abuse will occur shall report as provided below.

Persons required to report child abuse and/or neglect shall contact, as soon as reasonably possible, by telephone or in person, the child welfare agency or police department. These agencies include:

- Franklin, Greenfield, Hales Corners, Milwaukee or another Police Department as appropriate
- Milwaukee County Department of Family Services
- Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department

Persons reporting suspected abuse/neglect should also report the information to the principal or other administrator with whom the employee is comfortable discussing the situation. Said administrator shall develop a confidential file related to the incident.

The agency or department may contact, observe or interview the child at any location including school

without permission from the child's parent, guardian or legal custodian.

The following information shall be given when reporting suspected abuse or neglect:

- a. Name of child
- b. Name of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- c. Address and phone number
- d. Names and ages of all children within the family
- e. School
- f. Grade
- g. Facts and circumstances leading to the referral

Confidentiality

School personnel will treat all information relating to child abuse/neglect in a confidential manner. The Superintendent shall be the sole spokesperson in cases that attract community attention.

REVISED

September 7, 2005; August 10, 2009