

## Child Abuse and Reporting

### Duty to Report

Certificated employees and classified employees are trained in child abuse identification and shall report known or suspected child abuse to a child protective agency by telephone immediately or as soon as practically possible and in writing within thirty-six (36) hours. **The reporting duties are individual and cannot be delegated to another.**

**When you make a report, please alert your Campus Principal and Counselor that you have done so. They often get phone calls from CPS regarding the report and need to know the about the issue at hand. Also, please include your name when reporting, your report is anonymous but the investigator may need to follow up with you regarding the situation and if you don't include your name, they don't know who to contact!**

### Definitions

1. "Child Abuse", as defined by law, pursuant to Penal Code 273 and 11165, and for purposes of this regulation, including the following:
  - a. Physical abuse resulting in a non-accidental physical injury.
  - b. Physical neglect, including both severe and general neglect, resulting in negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child.
  - c. Sexual abuse including both sexual assault and sexual exploitation.
  - d. Emotional abuse and emotional deprivation including willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment.
  - e. Severe corporal punishment.
  
1. "**Mandated Reporters**" are those people defined by law as "**child care custodians**", "**medical practitioners**" and "**non-medical practitioners**" and include **virtually all school employees**. The following school personnel are required to report: teachers, administrators, supervisors of Student Services and Student Attendance, certificated pupil personnel employees, employees of a child care institution, headstart teachers, school psychologists, licensed nurses, counselors, presenters of child abuse prevention programs and those instructional aides or other classified employees who have contact with children. Basically, **all district employees who know, should know, or suspect child abuse are mandated reporters.**
2. "Child Protective Agencies", law enforcement and child protective services are responsible for investigating child abuse reports, including the local police or sheriff's department, county welfare or juvenile probation department and child protective services.
3. "**Reasonable Suspicion**" means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate his/her training and experience, to suspect child abuse.