

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

The personal safety and welfare of each child is of paramount concern to the Board of Trustees, employees and patrons of the School District. It is of particular importance that employees within the District become knowledgeable and thoroughly educated as to their legal and ethical responsibilities on observation and reporting of suspected child abuse, child abandonment or child neglect. The Superintendent shall review with staff the legal requirements concerning suspected child abuse at the commencement of each year.

"Abuse" is defined in I.C. § 16-1602 of the Idaho Code as any case in which a child has been the victim of conduct or omissions resulting in skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling. Abuse is further defined in I.C. 16-1602 to include sexual conduct including rape, molestation, incest, prostitution, obscene or pornographic photographing, filming or depiction for commercial purposes, or other similar forms of sexual exploitation harming or threatening the child's health or welfare or mental injury to the child abandonment or neglect.

"Abandoned" is defined as the failure of the parent to maintain a normal parental relationship with his child including, but not limited to, reasonable support or regular personal contact. Failure to maintain this relationship without just cause for a period of one (1) year is evidence of abandonment. I.C. § 16-1602(2).

"Neglected" means a child: Who is without proper parental care and control, or subsistence, education, medical or other care or control necessary for his well-being because of the conduct or omission of his parents, guardian or other custodian or their neglect or refusal to provide them with these items; .... See I.C. § 16-1602(25).

A District employee who has reasonable cause to suspect that a student may be an abused, abandoned or neglected as defined above or who observes a child being subjected to conditions which would reasonably result in abuse, abandonment or neglect shall immediately report to his/her supervisor. The employee and supervisor then have responsibility to report or cause to be reported such a case to local law enforcement or the Department of Health and Welfare within twenty four (24) hours.

The supervisor shall immediately notify the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, who shall in turn report or caused to be reported the case to local law enforcement or the Department of Health and Welfare.

All procedures or activity after the reporting of the case of child abuse is to be controlled by law enforcement agencies or Health and Welfare. If such agency's representative feels that an

examination is necessary, such examination will be processed according to their standard procedures.

In the event that an employee of the School District is identified as the person responsible for child abuse through allegation by a student, parent or other person, such employee's immediate supervisor shall promptly report such allegations to the Superintendent, who will direct an informal investigation. If a reasonable cause is determined to exist, a report shall be made to the appropriate law enforcement agency within 24 hours. A preliminary report shall be made to the Board of Trustees.

Legal Reference:	I.C. § 16-1605	Reporting of Abuse, Abandonment or Neglect
	I.C. § 16-1606	Immunity
	I.C. § 16-1607	Reporting in Bad Faith-Civil Damages
	I.C. § 16-1602	Definitions

Policy History:

Adopted on: April 14, 2008

Revised on: