

REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The Board of Education recognizes that student's mental and physical health will have an effect on the student's ability to obtain the most benefit from attending school. In order to increase the student's ability to learn while in school, the Board of Education realizes the importance of identifying students who may be suffering from abuse, neglect or placed in imminent danger of serious harm; for purposed of this policy, such abuse also includes instances where a school employee sexually assaults any student (regardless of the student's age). Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 17a-101, as amended, all school employees, including the Superintendent of Schools, administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, guidance counselors, paraprofessionals, psychologists and social workers, coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics as well as school nurses, physicians, working in the school system, licensed behavior analysts, or any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in District schools, who suspects child abuse or neglect must first report it to the Department of Children and Families or to a law enforcement agency. When a school employee suspects child abuse, neglect or that a child has been placed in imminent risk of serious harm, he/she shall within twelve (12) hours make an oral report by telephone or in person to the Commissioner of Children and Families, or a law enforcement agency, followed within 48 hours with a written report. The Building Principal shall be notified immediately after the oral report has been made and the Principal in turn will notify the Superintendent of Schools and the child's parents. The written report prepared and submitted by the mandated reporter shall also be submitted to the Principal.

Any school personnel who has reasonable cause to suspect that a district employee is abusing or neglecting a student should orally report that suspicion as soon as possible but no later than twelve (12) hours by telephone or in person to the Commissioner of Children and Families followed no later than 48 hours of making the oral report with a written report to the Department of Children and families. The Superintendent of Schools or supervising agent may be notified immediately after the oral report has been made. The Commissioner of Children and Families or his/her designee, is required to notify the head of a school, except when that person is the alleged perpetrator. The Superintendent or supervising agent must: 1) immediately notify parent(s) of the alleged abuse or neglect that a report has been made; and 2) immediately notify the Police Department of the alleged abuse or neglect.

In addition, the Superintendent or supervising agent must submit a written report of suspected child abuse or neglect by a school employee who has been entrusted with the care of a child to the Commissioner of Education or his/her representative. The Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families has a similar obligation. The Superintendent shall suspend a District employee when the DCF investigation results in the finding of reasonable cause that 1) the employee abused or neglected a child and DCF recommends the employee be placed on the DCF Child Abuse and Neglect Registry, or 2) the employee has sexually assaulted a student. The

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Department of Children and Families is required to send to the State Department of Education a copy of the report. Within seventy-two (72) hours after such suspension the Superintendent shall notify the Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education or his/her representative of the reasons for and conditions of the suspension.

If the contract of employment of a school employee who possesses a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education is terminated, or if such certified school employee resigns his/her employment, as a result of an investigation which reveals that child abuse or neglect has occurred, the Superintendent shall notify the Commissioner of Education within 72 hours of such termination or resignation.

If the report of abuse or neglect involves an employee of the District as the perpetrator, the District may conduct its own investigation into the allegation, provided that such investigation shall not interfere with or impede any investigation conducted by the Department of Children and Families or of law enforcement agencies.

The Superintendent shall maintain records of allegations, investigations and reports that a student has been abused or neglected by a school employee. Such records will be maintained in the District's Central Office. The records shall include any reports made to the Department of Children and Families. Such Department is to have access to all such records.

The Board, recognizing its responsibilities to protect children and in compliance with its statutory obligations shall provide in-service regarding the requirements and obligations of mandated reporters. District employees shall also participate in training offered by the Department of Children and Families. In addition, all District employees shall complete a training program pertaining to the accurate and prompt reporting of abuse and neglect, made available by the Commissioner of Children and Families. Also, all employees must complete a refresher program at least once every three years. Employees hired before July 1, 2011 must complete the refresher training program by July 1, 2012 and must retake it once every three years thereafter.

This policy will be distributed annually to all employees. Documentation shall be maintained that all employees have, in fact, received the written policy and completed training related to mandated reporting of child abuse and neglect as required by law.

The Board shall not retaliate against any mandated reporter for his/her compliance with the law and Board policy pertaining to the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-220a Inservice training. Professional development committees. Institutes for educators. Cooperating teacher program, regulations (as amended)

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Legal References (continued):

10-221d Criminal history records check of school personnel. Fingerprinting. Termination or dismissal (as amended)

17a-28 Definitions. Confidentiality of and access to records; exceptions. Procedures for aggrieved persons. Regulations (as amended)

17a-101 Protection of children from abuse. Reports required of certain professional persons. When child may be removed from surroundings without court order. (as amended)

17a-101a Report of abuse or neglect by mandated reports. (as amended)

17a-102 Report of danger of abuse. (as amended)

17a-106 Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and treatment of Child abuse/neglect.

10-151 Teacher Tenure Act

Administrative Regulations to Policy 5141.4
Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

a. What must be reported

A report must be made when any mandated reporter of the Board of Education, in his/her professional capacity, has reasonable cause to suspect or to believe that a child:

1. Is in danger of being or has been abused;
2. Has had non-accidental physical injuries or physical injuries which are at variance with the history given for them, inflicted by a person responsible for the child's health, welfare or care, or by a person given access to such child by a responsible person;
3. Has been neglected; or
4. Has been placed in imminent risk of serious harm.

In addition, a report must be made when any mandated reporter of the Board of Education, in his/her professional capacity, has reasonable cause to suspect or to believe that a student has been the victim of a sexual assault and the perpetrator is a school employee.

(As further set forth below, mandated reporters include all school employees, including the Superintendent, administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, guidance counselors, school paraprofessionals, coaches of intramural and interscholastic athletics, as well as licensed nurses, physicians, psychologists, licensed behavior analysts and social workers either employed by the Board of working in one of the District schools, or any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in District schools.)

Definitions

“Abused” means that a child (a) has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him or her other than by accidental means, or (b) has injuries which are at variance with the history given of them, or (c) is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment, such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation or exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment.

“Child” means any person under eighteen years of age or any person under twenty-one years of age who is in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical school, a college or a state-accredited job training program.

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“Neglected” means that a child (a) has been abandoned, or (b) is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally or morally, or (c) is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to his well-being, or (d) has been abused.

“School employee” (a) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by the Board or who is working in an elementary, middle or high school; or (b) any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in the Regional School District No. 7 Public Schools, pursuant to a contract with the Board.

“Sexual assault” means the criminal conduct described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 53a-70 (sexual intercourse by force or threat of force, or with a person unable to consent due to age or mental capacity); 53a-70a (aggravated assault); 53a-71 (includes sexual intercourse between a school employee and a student enrolled in the school district); 53a-72a (compelled sexual contact); 53a-72b (sexual contact with firearm) or 53a-73a (sexual contact between a school employee and student enrolled in the school district).

Statutory mandated reporter” means an individual by CGS Section 17a-101 to report suspected abuse and/or neglect of children. The term, "statutory mandated reporter" includes all school employees, as defined above.

“Student” means a person of any age who is being educated by a local or regional board of education or technical high school other than as part of an adult education program.

b. Reporting Procedures for Statutory Mandated Reporters

The following procedures apply only to statutory mandated reporters, as defined above.

1. When an employee of the Board of Education has reasonable cause to suspects or believes that a) a child has been abused, neglected,¹ or has been placed in imminent risk of serious harm, *or* b) a student has been the victim of a sexual assault (hereinafter “victim”) and the perpetrator is a school employee the following steps shall be taken:

¹For the purpose of these regulations, the term “abuse or neglect” shall hereinafter include an assault.

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- a) The employee shall immediately, and in no case later than twelve (12) hours after having such a suspicion or belief, make an oral report by telephone or in person to the Commissioner of Children and Families or the local law enforcement agency. The Department of Children and Families has established a 24 hour Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-842-2288 for the purpose of making such oral reports.
- b) The employee shall also immediately make an oral report to the Building Principal or his/her designee and/or the Superintendent or his/her designee. If the building principal is the alleged perpetrator of the abuse/neglect, then the employee shall notify the Superintendent or his/her designee directly.
- c) If a report prepared in accordance with Section (a) above concerns suspected abuse or neglect by a school employee, the Superintendent or his/her designee, shall immediately notify the child's parent or guardian that such a report has been made.
- d) Not later than 48 hours of making an oral report, the employee shall submit a written report to the Commissioner of Children and Families, or his/her representative, containing all of the required information. The written reports should be submitted on the DCF-136 form or any other form designated for that purpose; written reports may be made electronically as may be permitted by DCF.
- e) The employee shall immediately, submit a copy of the written report to the Principal and/or Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
- f) If a report prepared in accordance with Section (c) above, concerns suspected abuse or neglect by a school employee who possesses a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education, the Superintendent shall submit a copy of the written report to the Commissioner of Education, or his/her representative.

“Reasonable Cause”

A reporter's suspicion or belief may be based on factors including, but not limited to, observations, allegations, facts or statements by a child, victim or third party. Such suspicion or belief does not require certainty or probable cause.

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c. Contents of Report

Any report made pursuant to this policy shall contain the following information, if known:

1. The names and addresses of the child or victim and his/her parents or other persons responsible for his/her care;
2. The age of the child or victim;
3. The gender of the child or victim;
4. The nature and extent of the child's or victim's injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect;
5. The approximate date and time the injury or injuries to, or maltreatment or neglect occurred;
6. Information concerning any previous injury or injuries to, or maltreatment or neglect of, the child or victim or his/her siblings;
7. The circumstances in which the injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect came to be known to the reporter;
8. The name of the person or persons suspected to be responsible for causing such injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect;
9. The reasons such person or persons are suspected of causing such injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect;
10. Any information concerning any prior cases in which such person or persons have been suspected of causing an injury, maltreatment or neglect of a child or victim; and
11. What action, if any, was taken to treat, provide shelter or otherwise assist, the child or victim.

If the suspected abuser or neglecter is a school employee, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall thoroughly investigate the report, provided that such investigation does not interfere with or impede the investigation by the Department of Children and Families or by a law enforcement agency. To the extent feasible, this investigation shall be coordinated with the Commissioner of Children and Families or the police in order to minimize the number of interviews of any

Administrative Regulations to Policy 5141.4
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student and to share information with other persons authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse and neglect. When investigating a report, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall endeavor to obtain, when possible, the consent of parents or guardians or other persons responsible to the care of the student, to interview the student, except in those cases in which there is reason to believe that the parents or guardians or other persons responsible for the care of such student are the perpetrators or the alleged abusers or neglecters.

The investigation shall include an opportunity for the suspected abuser to be heard with respect to the allegations contained within the report. During the course of an investigation of suspected abuse or neglect by a school employee, the Superintendent may suspend the employee with pay or may place the employee on administrative leave with pay pending the outcome of the investigation.

A person reporting child abuse or neglect shall provide any person authorized to conduct an investigation into such claim with all information related to the investigation that is in the possession or control of the person reporting child abuse or neglect, except as expressly prohibited by state or federal law.

1. **Evidence of Abuse or Neglect by Certain School Employees.** After an investigation has been completed, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall notify within five (5) working days after the completion of the investigation into child abuse or neglect by a school employee the Superintendent and the Commissioner of Education of the results of such investigation and shall provide records, whether or not created by the Department of Children and Families, concerning such investigation to the Superintendent and the Commissioner of Education. The Superintendent shall suspend such employee, if not previously suspended, with pay and without diminution or termination of benefits if DCF (based upon the results of its investigation) has reasonable cause to believe that 1) (A) the employee abused or neglected a student AND (B) DCF recommends said employee be placed on the DCF child abuse and neglect registry, or 2) the student has been the victim of sexual assault by an employee. Not later than 72 hours after such suspension, the Superintendent shall notify the Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education, or his/her representative, of the reasons for the conditions of suspension. The Superintendent shall disclose records received from the Department of Children and Families to the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Education, or its attorney, for the purposes of review of employment status, certification, permit or authorization. Any decision of the Superintendent concerning such suspension shall remain in effect until the Board of Education acts, pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10.151. The Commissioner of Education shall also be notified if such certified person resigns from his/her employment in the District. Regardless

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of the outcome of any investigation by DCF and/or the police, the Superintendent and/or the Board, as appropriate, may take disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment in accordance with the provisions of any applicable statute, if the Superintendent's investigation produces evidence that a child has been abused or neglected by a certified, permit or authorized school staff member.

If the contract of employment of a certified school employee holding a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education is terminated as a result of an investigation into reports of child abuse and neglect, the Superintendent shall notify the Commissioner of Education, or his/her representative, within 72 hours of such termination.

The Board shall not employ any person whose employment contract is terminated or who resigned from employment following a suspension pursuant to the provisions of this subsection if such person is convicted of a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect as described in Connecticut General Statutes section 46b-120 or a violation of Connecticut General Statute sections 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a against any person who is being educated by the Technical Education and Career system or a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education program.

2. Evidence of Abuse or Neglect by Other School Staff. If the investigation by either the Superintendent or the Commissioner of Children and Families did produce evidence that a student has been abused or neglected by a non-certified school staff member the Superintendent and/or the Board, as appropriate, may take disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.
3. The District shall maintain records of allegations, investigations and reports that a student has been abused or neglected by a school employee. Such records will be maintained in the District's Central Office. The records shall include any reports made to the Department of Children and Families. The State Department of Education is to have access to all such records, in accordance with the law.
4. The Board shall provide to the Commissioner of Children and Families, upon request for the purposes of an investigation by the Commissioner of Children and Families of suspected child abuse or neglect by a teacher employed by the Board, any records maintained or kept in District files. Such records shall include, but not be limited to, supervisory records, reports of competence, personal character and efficiency maintained in such teacher's personnel file with reference to evaluation of performance as a professional employee of such board of education, and records of the personal misconduct of such teacher.
("Teacher" includes each certified professional employee below the rank of Superintendent employed by a Board of Education in a position requiring a certificate issued by the State Board of Education.)

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5. The Board of Education shall permit and give priority to any investigation conducted by the Commissioner of Children and Families or the appropriate local law enforcement agency that a child has been abused or neglected. The Board shall conduct its own investigation and take any disciplinary action, in accordance

pain or injury or willful deprivation by a caretaker of services which are necessary to the person's health or safety.

6. **"Neglect"** means a situation where an intellectually disabled person either is living alone or not able to provide for him/herself the services with the provisions of section 17a-101i of the general statutes, as amended, upon notice from the Commissioner or the appropriate local law enforcement agency that the Board's investigation will not interfere with the investigation of the Commissioner or such local law enforcement agency.
7. The Department of Children and Families will review, at least annually, with the State Department of Education all records and information relating to reports and investigations that a child has been abused and neglected by a school employee, in the Department of Children and Families' possession to ensure that records and information are being shared properly.

e. Delegation of Authority by Superintendent

The Superintendent may appoint a designee for the purposes of receiving and making reports, notifying and receiving notification, or investigating reports pursuant to this policy.

f. Special Reporting Procedures Concerning Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Intellectually Disabled Persons or Persons Receiving Services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Services

In addition to the reporting procedures set forth above, Connecticut General Statutes require that certain school personnel, including teachers, licensed nurses, psychologists and social workers, report any suspected abuse or neglect of intellectually disabled persons over the age of 18 or any person receiving services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Services. It is policy of the Board of Education to require ALL EMPLOYEES of the Board of Education to comply with the following procedures in connection with the suspected abuse or neglect, as defined below, of any intellectually disabled person over the age of 18 or any person receiving services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Services.

1. **Definitions.** For the purpose of this policy:

"Abuse" means the willful infliction of physical which are necessary to maintain his/her physical and mental health, or is not receiving such necessary services from the caretaker.

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2. **Reporting Procedures.** If an employee has reasonable cause to suspect that an intellectually disabled person or any person receiving services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Services has been abused or neglected, he/she shall, within five calendar days, make an oral report to the Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services ("DDS"), to be followed by a written report within five additional calendar days, or shall immediately notify the Superintendent in order for the Superintendent to make such oral and written reports to the Commissioner of DDS. In the event that an employee makes a report to the DDS, the employee shall immediately notify the Superintendent.
3. **Contents of Report.** Any such report shall contain the following information:
 1. The name and address of the allegedly abused or neglected person;
 2. A statement from the reporter indicating a belief that the person is intellectually disabled or receives services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Services together with information indicating that the person is unable to protect himself or herself from abuse or neglect;
 3. Information concerning the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect; and
 4. Any additional information, which the reporter believes, would be helpful in investigating the report or in protecting the intellectually disabled person or any person receiving services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Services.
4. **Investigation of Report.** If the suspected abuser or neglecter is a school employee, the Superintendent shall thoroughly investigate the report following the procedures regarding the investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect set forth in paragraph (e) above.

If the investigation by the Superintendent and/or the Commissioner of DDS produces evidence that an intellectually disabled person has been abused or neglected by a school employee, the Superintendent and/or the Board, as appropriate, may take disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

g. Disciplinary Action for Failure to Follow Policy

Any employee who fails to comply with requirements of this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

Administrative Regulations to Policy 5141.4
Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

h. Non-Discrimination Policy

The Board of Education shall not discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against any employee who, in good faith, makes a report pursuant to this policy or testifies or is about to testify in any proceeding involving abuse or neglect.

i. Training

All District employees are required to complete a training program pertaining to the accurate and prompt reporting of abuse and neglect, made available by the Commissioner of Children and Families. In addition, all employees must complete a refresher program at least once every three years. Employees hired before July 1, 2011 must complete the refresher training program by July 1, 2012 and must retake it once every three years thereafter.

j. Foster Care

Upon request of the Board of Education, the Department of Children and Families shall provide the name, date of birth and school of origin for each child in the custody of the Department of Children and Families who has been placed in foster care and is attending a District school.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-220a Inservice training. Professional development committees. Institutes for educators. Cooperating teacher program, regulations (as amended by PA 11-93)

10-221d Criminal history records check of school personnel. Fingerprinting. Termination or dismissal (as amended)

17a-28. Definitions. Confidentiality of and access to records; exceptions. Procedures for aggrieved persons. Regulations (as amended by PA 11-93 and PA 14-186)

17a-101 Protection of children from abuse. Reports required of certain professional persons. When child may be removed from surroundings without court order. (as amended)

17a-101a Report of abuse or neglect by mandated reports. (as amended)

Regional School District No. 7

Administrative Regulations to Policy 5141.4
Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

Legal References (continued...)

17a-101i Abuse of child by school employee or staff member of public or private institution or facility providing care for children. Suspension. Notification of state's attorney re: conviction. Board of education to adopt written policy re: reporting of child abuse by school employee.

17a-102 Report of danger of abuse. (as amended)

17a-106 Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse/neglect

10-151 Teacher Tenure Act

§ 46a-11b. Reports of suspected abuse or neglect required of certain persons. Report by others. Immunity. Fine. Treatment by Christian Science Practitioner.

REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

DCF-136
05/2015 (Rev.)



Within forty-eight hours of making an oral report, a mandated reporter shall submit this form (DCF-136) to the relevant Area Office listed below. See the reverse side of this form for a summary of Connecticut law concerning the protection of children.

Please Print or Type

Child's Name	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Age Or DOB	Race:	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American (not of Hispanic Origin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> White (not of Hispanic origin) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Child's Address					
Name Of Parents Or Other Person Responsible For Child's Care			Address		Phone Number
Name Of Careline Worker To Whom Oral Report Was Made			Date Of Oral Report	Date And Time Of Suspected Abuse/Neglect	
Name Of Suspected Perpetrator, If Known			Address And Phone Number, If Known		Relationship To Child
Nature And Extent Of Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect					
Describe The Circumstances Under Which The Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Came To Be Known					
Describe The Reasons Such Persons(s) Are Suspected Of Causing Such Injuries, Maltreatment Of Neglect					
Information Concerning Any Previous Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Of The Child Or His/Her Siblings					
Information Concerning Any Prior Cases(s) In Which The Person(s) Have Been Suspected Of Causing An Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Of A Child					
List Names And Ages Of Siblings, If Known					
What Action, If Any, Has Been Taken To Treat, Provide Shelter Or Otherwise Assist The Child?					

REPORTER SECTION

Reporter's Name:	Reporter's Race
Agency Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native
Phone Number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander
Agency Address:	<input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American (not of Hispanic Origin)
City:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic (any race)
	<input type="checkbox"/> White (not of Hispanic origin)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer Not to Answer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Reporter's Signature	Position
	Date

WHITE COPY: TO DCF AREA OFFICE (see below)

IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE, YOU MAY ATTACH MORE DOCUMENTATION

Bridgeport 100 Fairfield Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604 203-384-5300 TDD: 203-384-5399 Fax: 203-384-5306	Danbury 131 West Street Danbury, CT 06810 203-207-5100 TDD: 203-748-8325 Fax: 203-207-5169	Hartford 250 Hamilton Street Hartford, CT 06106 860-418-8000 TDD: 800-315-4082 Fax: 860-418-8325	Manchester 364 West Middle Turnpike Manchester, CT 06040 860-533-3600 TDD: 800-315-4415 Fax: 860-533-3734	Norwalk 761 Main Avenue, I-Park Complex Norwalk, CT 06851 203-899-1400 TDD: 203-899-1491 Fax: 203-899-1463, 203-899-1464
Meriden One West Main Street Meriden CT 06451 203-238-8400 TDD: 203-238-8517 Fax: 203-238-6425	Middletown 2081 South Main Street Middletown, CT 06457 860-638-2100 TDD: 860-638-2195 Fax: 860-346-0098	Millford 38 Wellington Road Millford, CT 06461 203-306-5300 TDD: 203-306-5604 Fax: 203-306-5606	New Britain One Grove Street, 4th Floor New Britain, CT 06053 860-832-5200 TDD: 860-832-5370 Fax: 860-832-5491	New Haven One Long Wharf Drive New Haven, CT 06511 203-786-0500 TDD: 203-786-2599 Fax: 203-786-0660
Norwich Two Courthouse Square Norwich, CT 06360 860-886-2641 TDD: 860-885-2438 Fax: 860-887-3683	Torrington 62 Commercial Blvd Torrington, CT 06790 860-496-5700 TDD: 860-496-5798 Fax: 860-496-5834	Waterbury 395 West Main Street Waterbury, CT 06702 203-759-7000 TDD: 203-465-7329 Fax: 203-759-7295	Willimantic 322 Main Street Willimantic, CT 06226 860-450-2000 TDD: 860-456-6603 Fax: 860-450-1051	Special Investigations Unit 505 Hudson Street, 7th Floor Hartford, CT 06106 860-550-6696 FAX: 860-723-7237

SUMMARY OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT (C.G.S. §17a-101)

To protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through injury and neglect; to strengthen the family and to make the home safe for children by enhancing the parental capacity for good child care; to provide a temporary or permanent nurturing and safe environment for children when necessary; and for these purposes to require the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect, investigation of such reports by a social agency, and provision of services, where needed, to such child and family.

WHO IS MANDATED TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT?

Child Advocate and OCA Employees	Mental Health Professionals
Chiropractors	Optometrists
Coaches and Directors of a Private Youth Sports, Organization or Team	Persons Paid to Care for Children
Coaches and Athletic Directors of Youth Athletics	Persons who Provide Services to and have Regular Contact with Students
Dental Hygienists	Pharmacists
Dentists	Physical Therapists
Department of Children and Families Employees	Physician Assistants
Domestic Violence Counselors	Podiatrists
Office of Early Childhood Employees and Department of Public Health Employees who are Responsible for Licensing Day Cares and Camps	Police Officers
Family Relations Counselors (Judicial Dept.)	Probation Officers (Juvenile or Adult)
Family Rel. Counselor Trainees (Judicial Dept.)	Psychologists
Family Services Supervisors (Judicial Dept.)	Public or Private Institution of Higher Education Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Athletic Directors, Athletic Coaches and Athletic Trainers
Licensed Foster Parents	Registered Nurses
Licensed Marital and Family Therapists	School Administrators
Licensed or Unlicensed Interns at Any Hospital	School Coaches
Licensed or Unlicensed Resident Physicians	School Guidance Counselors
Licensed Physicians	School Paraprofessionals
Licensed Practical Nurses	School Superintendents
Licensed Professional Counselors	School Teachers
Licensed Surgeons	Sexual Assault Counselors
Licensed/Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors	Social Workers
Licensed/Certified Emergency Medical Services Providers	Substitute Teachers
Medical Examiners	
Members of the Clergy	

DO THOSE MANDATED TO REPORT INCUR LIABILITY?

No. Any person, institution or agency which, in good faith, makes or does not make a report, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability provided such person did not perpetrate or cause such abuse or neglect.

IS THERE A PENALTY FOR NOT REPORTING?

Yes. Any person required to report who fails to do so may be prosecuted for a Class A misdemeanor and may be required to participate in an educational and training program. Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with or prevents a report may be prosecuted for a Class D felony.

IS THERE A PENALTY FOR MAKING A FALSE REPORT?

Yes. Any person who knowingly makes a false report of child abuse or neglect may be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year or both. The identity of such person shall be disclosed to the appropriate law enforcement agency and to the alleged perpetrator of the abuse.

WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

- An oral report shall be made by a mandated reporter by telephone or in person to the DCF Careline or to a law enforcement agency as soon as practicable, but not later than 12 hours after the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed in imminent risk of serious harm. If a law enforcement agency receives an oral report, it shall immediately notify Careline. Oral reports to the Careline shall be recorded.
- Within 48 hours of making an oral report, a mandated reporter shall submit a written report to the DCF Careline on the DCF-136, "Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect."
- When a mandated reporter is a member of the staff of a public or private institution or facility that provides care for children or a public or private school, the reporter shall also submit a copy of the written report to the person in charge of such institution, school or facility or the person's designee.

DCF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CARELINE: 1-800-842-2288

STATUTORY REFERENCES: C.G.S.17a-28, §17a-101 et seq.; §46b-120

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Abused Child: Any child who has a non-accidental physical injury, or injuries which are at variance with the history given of such injuries, or is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment.

Neglected Child: Any child who has been abandoned or is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally or is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to his or her well-being.

Exception: The treatment of any child by an accredited Christian Science practitioner shall not by itself constitute neglect or maltreatment.

CHILD UNDER AGE 13 WITH VENEREAL DISEASE: A physician or facility must report to Careline upon the consultation, examination or treatment for venereal disease of any child who has not reached his or her 13th birthday.

DO PRIVATE CITIZENS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING?

Yes. Any person having reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of 18 is in danger of being abused or has been abused or neglected may cause a written or oral report to be made to the Careline or a law enforcement agency. Any person making the report in good faith is immune from any liability, civil or criminal. However, the person is subject to the penalty for making a false claim.

WHAT IS THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (DCF)?

All child protective services in Connecticut are the responsibility of the Department of Children and Families.

Upon the receipt of a report of child abuse or neglect, the Careline shall cause the report to be classified, evaluated immediately and forwarded to the appropriate Area Office for the commencement of an investigation or for the provision of services within timelines specified by statute and policy.

If an investigation produces evidence of child abuse or neglect, DCF shall take such measures as it deems necessary to protect the child, and any other children similarly situated, including, but not limited to, immediate notification to the appropriate law enforcement agency, and the removal of the child from his or her home with or without the parents' consent consistent with state law.

If DCF has probable cause to believe that the child or any other child in the household is at imminent risk of physical harm from the surroundings, and that immediate removal from such surroundings is necessary to ensure the child's safety, the Commissioner or designee shall authorize any employee of DCF or any law enforcement officer to remove the child and any other child similarly situated from such surroundings without the consent of the child's parent or guardian. The removal of a child shall not exceed 96 hours. If the child is not returned home within such 96-hour period, with or without protective services, DCF shall file a motion for temporary custody with the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters.

WHAT MEANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REMOVING A CHILD FROM HIS OR HER HOME?

- 96-Hour hold by the Commissioner of DCF or designee (see above).
- 96-Hour hold by a physician – Any physician examining a child with respect to whom abuse or neglect is suspected shall have the right to keep such child in the custody of a hospital for no longer than 96 hours in order to perform diagnostic tests and procedures necessary to the detection of child abuse or neglect and to provide necessary medical care with or without the consent of such child's parents or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care, provided the physician has made reasonable attempts to (1) advise such child's parents or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care that the physician suspects the child has been abused or neglected, and (2) obtain consent of such child's parents or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care. In addition, such physician may take or cause to be taken photographs of the area of trauma visible on a child who is the subject of such report without the consent of such child's parent's or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care. All such photographs or copies thereof shall be sent to the local police department and the Department of Children and Families.
- Bench order of temporary custody – Whenever any person is arrested and charged with an offense under Section 53-20 or 53-21 or under Part V, VI, or VII of Chapter 952, as amended, the victim of which offense was a minor residing with the defendant, any judge of the Superior Court may, if it appears that the child's condition or circumstances surrounding the case so require, issue an order to the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families to assume immediate custody of such child and, if the circumstances so require, any other children residing with the defendant and to proceed thereon as in other cases.

WHAT IS THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

The Department of Children and Families maintains a registry of persons who have been substantiated as responsible for child abuse or neglect and pose a risk to the health safety or well-being of children. The Central Registry is available on a 24-hour daily basis to prevent or discover child abuse of children.