

SUPERINTENDENT'S REGULATION 5-4.4 (B) PROCEDURES RELATING TO SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The following are procedures for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect:

1. School personnel, including teachers, shall report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. Teachers shall notify their principal in suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. In such cases the principal immediately shall be responsible for notifying the Department of Social Services.
2. When Social Services is investigating any case of child abuse/neglect and deems it necessary to talk to a child at school, the investigating social worker shall present school officials with appropriate identification. The social worker may talk with any child suspected of being abused or neglected as well as his/her siblings without the consent of his/her parent or guardian, and without the presence of a school official, and may take photographs of the child as a part of the investigation. A social worker investigating a report of abuse/neglect has the authority to take a child into emergency custody without parental consent or a court order under certain extreme circumstances. The social worker can transport a child only with parental consent or if the child is in the custody of Social Services.
3. The school shall provide Social Services any school records that would help document a reported abuse/neglect case, insofar as such release of information is consistent and in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.
4. School principals shall submit a written report in suspected cases of child abuse/neglect to the division superintendent or his/her designee. A copy of this written report shall be sent to Social Services.
5. In cases where school employees are reported for child abuse/neglect as a result of an incident while conducting their official duties, the employee being investigated shall submit a written report to the division superintendent or his/her designee. School officials shall cooperate with the Social Services representative(s) conducting the investigation. The director of student services shall conduct an independent investigation of charges alleging child abuse/neglect by persons employed by the School Board while conducting their official duties.
6. Investigations of child abuse and neglect reports made against Poquoson City Public Schools personnel shall be conducted in accordance with the written interagency agreement entered between Poquoson City School Board and the local Department of Social Services.