

MANDATED REPORTERS

ABUSE OF STUDENTS

The staff is legally responsible for reporting all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. For that reason, under state law, the staff is free from liability for the reporting of abuse or neglect and are criminally liable for failure to do so. Report this information directly to your principal. Staff need not verify that a child has in fact been abused or neglected. Any conditions or information that may reasonably be related to abuse or neglect should be reported. Legal authorities have the responsibility for investigating each case and taking such action as is appropriate under the circumstances. The following are sample indicators of observable abuse of a child:

1. Bilateral bruises, extensive bruises, bruises of different ages, patterns of bruises caused by a particular instrument (belt buckle, wire, straight edge, coat hanger, etc.)
2. Burn patterns consistent with forced immersion in hot liquid (a distinct boundary line where the burn stops), burn patterns consistent with a splattering of hot liquids, patterns caused by a particular kind of implement (electric iron, etc.) or instrument (circular cigarette burns, etc.)
3. Lacerations, welts, abrasions.
4. Injuries inconsistent with information offered by the child.
5. Injuries inconsistent with the child's age.
6. Sexual abuse, whether physical injuries are sustained or not, is any act or acts involving sexual molestation or exploitation including but not limited to incest, rape or unnatural or perverted sexual practices. Indicators:
 - a. Child having difficulty sitting down.
 - b. Child refusing to change into gym clothes (when he/she has been willing to change in the past).
 - c. Child running away from home and not giving specific complaint what is wrong.
 - d. Young child daydreaming to an excessive degree – almost out of touch.

Sample Indicators of Observable Neglect of Child:

1. Lack of basic needs (food, clothing, shelter).
2. Inadequate supervision (unattended).
3. Lack of essential health care and high incidence of illness.
4. Lack of experiences that produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secure (emotional neglect).
5. Irregular school attendance.
6. Long working hours.
7. Continuous friction in the home, marital discord, mentally ill parents.

Note: The above examples do not prove that abuse or neglect has actually occurred, but provides evidence for further investigation.