

CHILD ABUSE IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING

- I. Article 23-B of the NYS Education Law requires certain school district employees and school board members to inform law enforcement authorities of incidents of child abuse committed by an employee or volunteer on school grounds, in a school vehicle, at a school function or any other location where direct contact between employee or volunteer and a child has allegedly occurred.

- II.
 - A. Notice of Staff

School districts must annually provide a written explanation of the reporting obligation, including the entitlement to immunity for reports made in good faith, to teachers and all other school officials. A copy of this notice is attached as Regulation 7201.2

 - B. Notice to the Parent

The principal must promptly notify the parent of the student victim of the allegation of child abuse and provide the parent with a written statement setting forth their parental rights, responsibilities and the procedures under Article 23-B of the Education Law. The Commissioner has issued regulations relative to the required components of this written statement. A copy of the parental notice is attached as Regulation 7201.1

 - C. Training in Reporting of Child Abuse in an Educational Setting

Each school district and each board of cooperative educational services shall establish, and implement on an ongoing basis, a training program regarding the procedures set forth in Article 23-B of the Education Law for all current and new teachers, school nurses, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school administrators, other personnel required to hold a teaching or administrative certificate or license including all compensated District employees who are required to hold a temporary coaching license or permanent coaching certificate, whether full-time or part-time and school board members.

- III. Any employee or volunteer who reasonably and in good faith makes a report of allegations of child abuse in an educational setting to a person and in a manner described in this section shall have immunity from civil liability which might otherwise result by reason of such actions.