BP-5141.4

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

Note: *AS 14.08.*111 and *AS 14.14.090* require districts to provide mandatory reporters with training in the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Pursuant to *AS 47.17.020,* teachers, school administrators, and paid athletic coaches are mandated to report child abuse and neglect. New employees required to report are to be trained on this obligation within 45 days after the first day of employment. *AS 47.17.022.* A school district providing training shall provide notice of the training to public and private schools in the district and invite volunteers who are required to report to participate in the training at no cost to the volunteer. Effective June 30, 2017, volunteers who interact with children in public or private schools for more than four hours a week are also mandatory reporters of child abuse. *AS 18.66.310* requires school districts to offer continuing education at least once every two years on domestic violence for mandatory reporter employees.

Abuse and neglect affect the well-being of students. Teachers, school administrators, classified staff, paid athletic coaches, and volunteers who interact with children in school sponsored activities for more than four hours a week shall be trained on the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect in accordance with state law. In addition, an unpaid volunteer coach who volunteers more than 4 hours per week for 4 consecutive weeks, or for more than 20 hours/week in a one-month period, and who has received training and signed a form acknowledging the obligation to report shall be required to report child abuse and neglect. District employees shall cooperate with the child protective agencies responsible for reporting, investigating, and prosecuting case of child abuse.

The district shall provide notice of child abuse and neglect mandatory reporter training to all public and private schools in the district. All mandatory reporters, including qualifying volunteers are invited to participate in the training at no cost.

Note: Pursuant to *AS 47.17.068,* failing to report child abuse or neglect mandated by law is a misdemeanor if the person knew or should have known that circumstances gave rise to the need to report.

Legal References

ALASKA STATUTES

14.08.111 Duties (Regional School Boards)
14.14.090, Additional duties
18.66.310 Continuing education for public employees
47.17.010 – AS 47.17.070 Child protection

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