

REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all school district employees understand their legal and ethical obligations to report suspected child abuse or neglect. The district is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of all students and complying with state and federal laws regarding mandated reporting, including the annual teacher attestation requirement as outlined in Oklahoma Statute 70 O.S. § 1210.163 and 10A O.S. § 1-2-101.

II. Definitions

A. Attestation Form:

A standardized document that must be signed annually by employees of the school district affirming their awareness and understanding of applicable laws, policies, and professional responsibilities.

B. Mandated Reporter:

Any person with legal obligations to report child abuse or neglect.

III. Policy Statement

It is the policy of Piedmont Public Schools that all employees of the district are required, in accordance with Oklahoma state law, to immediately report any suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. All certified instructional staff shall sign an annual attestation form at the beginning of each academic year acknowledging their legal responsibility to report suspected child abuse or neglect, as well as their obligation to comply with other applicable state and district mandates.

IV. Reporting Procedures

A. Immediate Action:

1. Suspected abuse or neglect shall be reported immediately to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) via the statewide hotline: 1-800-522-3511 and local law enforcement for victims under the age of eighteen.
2. Suspected abuse or neglect shall be reported immediately to local law enforcement in students age eighteen years or older.

B. Personal Responsibility:

Reports must be made directly by the individual who has knowledge of or suspects abuse. Reporting to a supervisor does not fulfill the legal obligation.

C. Timeliness:

Reports must be made as soon as possible, ideally within 24 hours of suspicion.

D. Documentation:

A written report shall be submitted to the school principal or designated administrator for internal recordkeeping.

V. Annual Attestation Requirement

A. Attestations:

All employees must sign an attestation form at the beginning of each school year confirming:

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1. Their understanding of mandated reporting laws and regulations
2. Their obligation to report directly to DHS
3. Their awareness of the consequences for failure to report

B. Recordkeeping:

Signed attestations shall be maintained in personnel files and reviewed during audits or investigations.

C. Attestation:

Attachment A

VI. Confidentiality and Protection**A. Confidentiality:**

Reports and reporter identities are protected under Oklahoma law.

B. Immunity:

Reporters acting in good faith are immune from civil or criminal liability.

C. No Retaliation:

Retaliation against reporters is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

VII. Training**A. Annual Training:**

All staff shall receive training on recognizing and reporting abuse and neglect.

B. New Hire Orientation:

Mandated reporting responsibilities shall be included in onboarding.

VIII. Prohibited Actions**A. No Internal Investigations:**

School personnel must not investigate suspected abuse or neglect. Doing so may interfere with DHS or law enforcement investigations.

B. No Interference:

Administrators may not prevent or delay any employee from making a report.

IX. Failure to Report

Any failure to report may result in disciplinary action, termination, and legal consequences.

X. Legal Authority

This policy is adopted pursuant to Oklahoma statute 70 O.S. § 1210.163 and 10A O.S. § 1-2-101.

“Child Abuse and Neglect” shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Child abuse as defined in Section 843.5 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
2. Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation as defined in Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes;
3. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor as defined in Section 856 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

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4. Trafficking in children, as defined in Section 866 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
5. Incest as described in Section 885 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
6. Forcible sodomy, as described in Section 888 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
7. Maliciously, forcibly or fraudulently taking or enticing a child away, as described in Section 891 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
8. Soliciting or aiding a minor child to perform or showing, exhibiting, loaning or distributing obscene material or child pornography, as described in Section 1021 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
9. Procuring or causing the participation of any minor child in any child pornography or knowingly possessing, procuring or manufacturing child pornography, as described in Section 1021.2 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
10. Permitting or consenting the participation of a minor child in any child pornography, as described in Section 1021.3 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
11. Facilitating, encouraging, offering or soliciting sexual conduct with a minor, as described in Section 1040.13a of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
12. Offering or offering to secure a minor child for the purposes of prostitution or any other lewd or indecent act, as described in Section 1087 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
13. Causing, inducing, persuading or encouraging a minor child to engage or continue to engage in prostitution, as described in Section 1088 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
14. Rape or rape by instrumentation, as described in Sections 1111.1 and 1114 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and
15. Making any oral, written or electronically or computer-generated lewd or indecent proposals to a minor child under the age of sixteen (16) as described in Section 1123 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. § 1210.163
10A O.S. § 1-2-101