

SAFETY: REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

PURPOSE:

Social Services Laws have been passed to provide protective services to abused and maltreated children. The Child Protective Services Act requires school personnel to report suspected child abuse and neglect. It is the purpose of this statement to present a procedure for school personnel at Town of Webb Union Free School to use in meeting their responsibilities under this law.

DEFINITIONS:

An abused child is one who is less than 18 years of age and whose parent or other person is legally responsible for his/her care:

1. Inflicts or allows to be inflicted serious physical injury by other than accidental means.
2. Creates or allows to be created a substantial risk of such injury, or
3. Commits or allows to be committed a sex offense against such child.

A neglected or maltreated child is one who is less than 18 years of age whose physical, mental, or emotional condition has been impaired or is in danger of becoming impaired due to:

1. Failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or education, or
2. Failure to provide proper supervision or guardianship, or
3. Infliction of excessive corporal punishment, or
4. Abandonment of child.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The law states that any person who willfully fails to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, and could be held civilly liable for the proximate damages caused by the failure to report. All professional staff members are required to report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.

The law does not require absolute certainty in order to report child abuse or neglect. It does require reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect. It further assures that any person or institution making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect in good faith has immunity from civil or criminal liability which might otherwise be incurred.

PROCEDURES:

1. Any professional staff member suspecting a situation involving child abuse or neglect will contact an administrator immediately. The Principal, who is the district liaison for contact with appropriate local county child protective services units, will be alerted to the suspected situation and provide an update to the Superintendent of Schools within 24 hours of receipt of such report.

2. The person suspecting the abuse shall immediately make an oral report by telephone to the New York State Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment by calling 1-800-342-3720. As much of the following information as possible should be given:
 - 2.1 Child's name and address, name and address of parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
 - 2.2 Child's age, sex and race.
 - 2.3 Nature and extent of child's injuries, abuse, or maltreatment.
 - 2.4 Name of person or persons responsible for causing injury, abuse, or maltreatment.
 - 2.5 Family composition.
 - 2.6 Source of report.
 - 2.7 Person making report, and where (s)he can be reached.
 - 2.8 Any action taken by the reporting source.
 - 2.9 Any additional information pertinent to the situation. Within 48 hours of the telephoned report, reduce the report to writing using the Department of Social Services form available from the Principal. The written report shall be given to the Principal to be made available to the local child protective services unit. The Principal will act as local coordinator for any activities or responsibilities resulting from the referral. The Principal will also forward a copy of any report, documentation, and information to the Superintendent of Schools.
 - 2.10 The Principal shall at the time of making the report inquire and request of the investigating agency a copy of the findings of an investigation made pursuant to each report of suspect abuse. The Principal shall also reiterate such request of a copy of the findings of any investigation at the conclusion of any agency investigation. Upon receipt of any findings of the investigation, the Principal shall provide a copy of such report to the Superintendent of Schools.

APPROVED: March 17, 1992

REVISED: December 2, 2008

October 16, 2012

May 2, 2017