
REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT

All professional school personnel are required to report to law enforcement or children's protective services concerning suspected child abuse and neglect. The report shall be made at the first opportunity, and in no case longer than forty-eight (48) hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that abuse or neglect has occurred. **Any school staff member who knowingly fails to do shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. Any school staff member who in good faith reports such suspected abuse or neglect shall be immune from civil or criminal liability.**

When any member of the school staff has reasonable cause to believe that a child has experienced non-accidental physical injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment, said person shall report such incident to his or her principal or designee. (The school nurse should be consulted as a professional resource with special skills, insight and experience in abuse and neglect cases.) An oral report shall then be made to law enforcement and or child protective services. This report may be made by the staff member initiating the report or the building principal, or designee. In cases when it may take longer than forty-eight (48) hours to determine if **reasonable cause** exists, a call to the agency should be made within the first forty-eight (48) hours alerting the agency that school personnel are in the process of making the "reasonable cause" determination. Child Protective Services has the responsibility for determining the fact of child abuse or neglect. Any doubt about the child's condition shall be resolved in favor of making the report.

The oral report shall be made by telephone or otherwise to the agency and, upon request, shall be followed by a report in writing. Such reports shall contain the following information, if available, on the District form, "Child Abuse and Neglect Report":

- 1) The name, address and age of the child or adult dependent person;
- 2) The name and address of the child's parents, stepparents, guardians or other persons having custody of the child, or the residence of the adult dependent person;
- 3) The nature and extent of the suspected abuse or neglect;
- 4) Any evidence of previous abuse;
- 5) Any other information which may be helpful in establishing the cause of the child's or adult dependent person's death, injury or injuries, and the identity of the perpetrator or perpetrators accused of inflicting the abuse.

In some cases the agency representative normally will contact the parents or legal guardian, and the referral source will be kept confidential unless the referral source relinquishes confidentiality.

The principal and school personnel shall cooperate with Child Protective Services (CPS) and law enforcement officials in providing an appropriate setting during school hours to interview a child or adult dependent person suspected of being a victim of abuse or neglect.

When a student, identified as a victim of suspected child abuse or neglect, is interviewed on school premises by CPS workers or law enforcement agents, a staff member appointed by the principal shall be in attendance for such interview. If the child objects to any third party

present, the child's wishes shall prevail. The most appropriate staff member to witness such an interview is the person with whom the child is most comfortable.

In the event CPS workers or law enforcement agents elect to remove a suspected victim of child abuse from the school, school officials shall secure a protective custody statement showing where the student will be taken. School officials will notify the parent or guardian and the District Superintendent's office as soon as possible, with the exception that when the parent or guardian is considered a suspect in the alleged child abuse or neglect, the notification of the parent or the guardian may be delegated by the responsible school official to the agents taking custody of the student.

ABUSE INDICATORS

Physical Abuse Indicators:

- 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 a hot liquid (a distinct boundary line where the burn stops), burn patterns consistent with a spattering by hot liquids, patterns caused by a particular kind of implementation (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) injuries that regularly appear after absence or vacation

Emotional Abuse Indicators:

- 7) lags in physical development
- 8) extreme behavior disorder
- 9) fearfulness of adults or authority figures
- 10) revelations of highly inappropriate adult behavior, i.e., being enclosed in a dark closet, forced to drink or eat inedible items

Sexual Abuse Indicators:

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, carnal knowledge, sodomy or unnatural or perverted sexual practices. Indicators include:

- 11) child having difficulty sitting down
- 12) child refusing to change into gym clothes (when he/she has been willing to change in the past)
- 13) venereal disease in a child of any age
- 14) evidence of physical trauma or bleeding to the oral, genital or anal areas
- 15) child running away from home and not giving any specific complaint about what is wrong at home
- 16) pregnancy at 11 or 12 with no history of peer socialization

NEGLECT INDICATORS

Physical Neglect Indicators:

- 17) lack of basic needs (food, clothing, shelter)
- 18) inadequate supervision (unattended)
- 19) lack of essential health care and high incidence of illness
- 20) poor hygiene on a regular basis
- 21) inappropriate clothing in inclement weather
- 22) abandonment

Some Behavioral Indicators of Abuse

- 23) wary of adult contact.
- 24) frightened of parents.
- 25) afraid to go home.
- 26) habitually truant or late to school
- 27) arrives at school early and remains after school later than other students.
- 28) wary of physical contact by adults.
- 29) shows evidence of overall poor care.
- 30) parents describe child as “difficult” or “bad”.
- 31) inappropriately dressed for the weather—no coat or shoes in cold weather or long sleeves and high necklines in hot weather (possibly hiding marks of abuse).
- 32) exhibits behavioral extremes: crying often or never, unusually aggressive or withdrawn and fearful.

Behavioral indicators in and of themselves do not prove abuse has occurred. Together with other indicators they may warrant a referral.

Child abuse as defined by the statutes can be inflicted “by any person” and may include student-on-student abuse. These cases also require reporting to CPS, DSHS or law enforcement. Child abuse in this and all other cases requires two element. First, there must be injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment. Second, there must be harm to the child’s health, welfare or safety. When a student, identified as a victim of suspected child abuse or neglect, is interviewed on school premises by CPS workers or law enforcement agents, a staff member appointed by the principal shall be in attendance for such interview. If the child objects to any third party present, the child’s wishes shall prevail. The most appropriate staff member to witness such an interview is the person with whom the child is most comfortable.



<i>ESTABLISHED</i>	<i>March 27, 1995</i>
<i>REVISED</i>	<i>May 12, 2003</i>
<i>REVISED</i>	<i>March 8, 2004</i>
<i>REVISED</i>	<i>May 9, 2011</i>

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY STATEMENT

In accordance with RCW 26.44.050, I have investigated the report concerning possible occurrence of abuse and neglect and find there is probable cause to believe that:

(NAME OF CHILD/CHILDREN)

has/have been abused and/or neglected, and that the same would be injured or could not be taken into custody if it were necessary to first obtain a court order pursuant to RCW 13.34.050. I am therefore placing the above child/children in protective custody.

I certify I will notify the parents, custodian or guardian that the child or children is/are in protective custody.

DATE: _____

(INVESTIGATING OFFICER)

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In accordance with RCW 26.44.050, I have investigated the report concerning possible occurrence of abuse and neglect and find there is probable cause to believe that:

(NAME OF CHILD/CHILDREN)

has/have been abused and/or neglected, and in accordance with the court order, am placing said child or children in protective custody.

I certify I will notify the parents, custodian or guardian that the child or children is/are in protective custody.

DATE: _____

(CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES WORKER)

COURT ORDER # _____

CONFIDENTIAL
Do Not Place in Cumulative Folder
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT REPORT

NAME OF CHILD/ADULT DEPENDENT PERSON		<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> F
LEGAL NAME: LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL			
ADDRESS			PHONE
STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
BIRTHDATE: / /			
MONTH / DAY / YEAR			
NAME OF PARENT(S), CUSTODIAN(S), GUARDIAN(S) WITH WHOM THE ABOVE PERSON LIVES			
TYPE OF ABUSE BEING REPORTED:			
<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL ABUSE	<input type="checkbox"/> NEGLECT	<input type="checkbox"/> SEXUAL ABUSE	
<input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL NEGLECT	<input type="checkbox"/> EMOTIONAL NEGLECT/ABUSE	<input type="checkbox"/> SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			
STATE NATURE AND EXTENT OF CURRENT INJURIES, NEGLECT, MALTREATMENT, SEXUAL ABUSE AND/OR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AS WELL AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION:			
EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS INJURIES:			
OTHER INFORMATION OR RISK FACTORS IDENTIFIED:			

To Whom Reported:		
NAME	AGENCY	DATE/HOUR

Staff Member Making Report:		
NAME	TITLE	SCHOOL/AGENCY
SIGNATURE		PHONE

Principal/Designated Supervisor:		
NAME	TITLE	SCHOOL/AGENCY
SIGNATURE		PHONE