

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING PROCEDURES**DUTY TO REPORT**

Certificated employees and classified employees of the San Dieguito Union High School District trained in child abuse identification and reporting shall report known or suspected child abuse to a child protective agency by telephone immediately or as soon as practically possible and in writing within 36 hours. The reporting duties are individual and cannot be delegated to another individual except under certain circumstances.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Child Abuse" includes the following:
 - a. A physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person.
 - b. Sexual abuse of a child.
 - c. Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of a child, or willfully inflicting unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or failure to safeguard a child from these injuries when the child is under a person's care or custody.
 - d. Unlawful corporal punishment or injury resulting in a traumatic condition.
 - e. Neglect of a child or abuse in out-of-home care.
2. "Mandated Reporters" are those people defined by law as "child care custodians," "health practitioners," "child visitation monitors" and "employees of a child protective agency." Mandated reporters include virtually all school employees. The following school personnel are required to report:

Teachers, administrators, supervisors of child welfare and attendance, certificated student personnel employees, employees of child care institutions, Headstart teachers, school psychologists, licensed nurses, counselors, presenters of child abuse prevention programs and those instructional aides or other classified employees trained in child abuse reporting.
3. "Child Protective Agencies" are those law enforcement and child protective services responsible for investigating child abuse reports, including the local police or sheriff's department, county welfare or juvenile probation department and child protective services.
4. "Reasonable Suspicion" means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate on his/her training and experience, to suspect child abuse.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. To report known or suspected child abuse, any employee (as defined above) shall report by telephone to the local child protective agency.

**CHILD ABUSE PLACEMENT & PROTECTIVE SERVICE
6950 Levant Street, San Diego, CA (619-560-2191)**

The telephone report must be made immediately, or as soon as practically possible, upon suspicion. This report will include:

- a. The name of the person making the report.

- b. The name of the child.
- c. The present location of the child.
- d. The nature and extent of any injury, physical or psychological.
- e. Any other information requested by the child protective agency, including the information that led the mandated reporter to suspect child abuse; including historical information or information being given by another person to the employee making the report.

When the verbal report is made, the mandated reporter shall note the name of the official contacted, the date and time contacted, and any instructions or advice received.

2. Within 36 hours of making the telephone report, the mandated reporter shall complete and mail to the local child protective agency a written report which includes a completed Department of Justice form.
 - a. Mandated reporters will be provided copies of the above form from the district. Copies may also be obtained from the local child protective agency.
 - b. Instructions are included on the form, and reporters may ask the site administrator or designee for help in completing and mailing it; however, the mandated reporter is personally responsible for ensuring that the written report is correctly filed.
3. Employees reporting child abuse to a child protective agency shall notify the site administrator or designee as soon as possible after the initial verbal report by telephone. When so notified, the site administrator shall inform the Superintendent or designee.

Administrators so notified shall provide the mandated reporter with any assistance necessary to ensure that reporting procedures are carried out in accordance with law and district regulations. At the mandated reporter's request, the principal may assist in completing and filing these forms.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY

1. Mandated reporters have absolute immunity. School employees required to report are not civilly or criminally liable for filing a required or authorized report of known or suspected child abuse.
2. If a mandated reporter fails to report an instance of child abuse which he/she knows to exist or reasonably should know to exist, he/she is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail for up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both. The mandated reporter may also be held civilly liable for damages resulting from any injury to the child after a failure to report.
3. When two or more persons who are required to report have joint knowledge of a suspected instance of child abuse, and when they so agree, the telephone report may be made by either of them and a single report made and signed by that person. However, if any person knows or should know that the designated person failed to make the report, that person when has a duty to do so.
4. The duty to report child abuse is an individual duty and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit such reporting duties. Furthermore, no person making such a report shall be subject to any sanction.

VICTIM INTERVIEWS

Upon request, a child protective agency representative may interview a suspected victim of child abuse during school hours, on school premises, concerning a report of suspected child abuse that occurred within

the child's home. The child shall be given the choice of being interviewed in private or in the presence of any adult school employee or volunteer aide selected by the child.

A staff member or volunteer aide selected by a child may decline to be present at the interview. If the selected person accepts, the principal or designee shall inform him/her, before the interview takes place, of the following legal requirements:

1. The purpose of the selected person's presence at the interview is to lend support to the child and enable him/her to be as comfortable as possible.
2. The selected person shall not participate in the interview.
3. The selected person shall not discuss the facts or circumstances of the case with the child.
4. The selected person is subject to the confidentiality requirements of the Child Abuse and Reporting Act, a violation of which is punishable.

If a staff member agrees to be present, the interview shall be held at a time during school hours when it does not involve an expense to the school.

RELEASE OF CHILD TO PEACE OFFICER OR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES AGENT

When a child is released to a peace officer or child protective services agent and taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, the Superintendent or designee and/or principal shall not notify the parent/guardian as required in other instances of removal of a child from school, but rather shall provide the peace officer or agent with the address and telephone number of the child's parent/guardian. It is the responsibility of the peace officer or agent to notify the parent/guardian of the situation.

Peace officers and child protective services agents will be asked to sign an appropriate release or acceptance of responsibility form.

WHEN SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ARE ACCUSED OF CHILD ABUSE

Regardless of who child abusers may be, the major responsibilities of mandated reporters are to

1. identify incidents of suspected child abuse, and
2. comply with laws requiring the reporting of suspected abuse to the proper authorities.

Determining whether or not the suspected abuse actually occurred is not the responsibility of the school employee. Such determination and follow-up investigation will be made by a child protective agency.

Pending the outcome of an investigation by a child protective agency and before formal charges are filed, the employee may be subject to reassignment or a paid leave of absence.

Upon filing formal charges or upon conviction, the district may take disciplinary action in accordance with law, district policies, regulations and/or collective bargaining agreements. The Superintendent or designee shall seek legal counsel in connection with either the suspension or dismissal of the employee.

NOTE: Penal Code 11166.5 requires all employees defined as child care custodians or health practitioners to sign a statement to the effect that they understand and will comply with their legal obligation to report known or suspected instances of child abuse. Reporting by instructional aides, teacher aides, teaching assistants and classified employees is required if they have been trained in the duties of child abuse reporting and if the school has so warranted to the California Department of Education as to why such training has not been provided.

SB 665 (Ch. 510, Statutes of 1993 amended Penal Code 11166.5 to include fire fighters, animal control officers and humane society officers among those required to report known or suspected instances of child abuse. The following exhibit duplicates Penal Code 11166.5 as amended.

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Section 11166 of the Penal Code requires any child care custodian, health practitioner, fire fighter, animal control officer, or humane society officer, employee of a child protective agency or child visitation monitor who has knowledge of or observes a child in his/her professional capacity or within the scope of his/her employment whom he/she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

"Child care custodian" includes teachers; an instructional aide, a teacher's aide, or a teacher's assistant employed by any public or private school, who has been trained in the duties imposed by this article, if the school district has so warranted to the State Department of Education; a classified employee of any public school who has been trained in the duties imposed by this article, if the school has so warranted to the State Department of Education; administrative officers, supervisors of child welfare and attendance, or certificated pupil personnel employees of any public or private school; administrators of a public or private day camp; administrators and employees of public or private youth centers, youth recreation programs and youth organizations; administrators and employees of public or private organizations whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children and who have been trained in the duties imposed by this article; licensees, administrators and employees of licensed community care or child day care facilities; headstart teachers; licensing workers or licensing evaluators; public assistance workers; employees of a child care institution including, but not limited to, foster parents, group home personnel, and personnel of residential care facilities; social workers, probation officers or parole officers; employees of a school district, police or security department; any person who is an administrator or a presenter of, or a counselor in, a child abuse prevention program in any public or private school; a district attorney investigator, inspector, or family support officer unless the investigator, inspector or officer is working with an attorney appointed pursuant to Section 317 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to represent a minor; or a peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of this code, who is not otherwise described in this section.

"Health practitioner" includes physicians and surgeons, psychiatrists, psychologists, dentists, residents, interns, podiatrists, chiropractors, licensed nurses, dental hygienists, optometrists, or any other person who is licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code; marriage, family and child counselors; emergency medical technicians I or II, paramedics, or other persons certificated pursuant to Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797) of the Health and Safety Code; psychological assistants registered pursuant to Section 2913 of the Business and Professions Code; marriage, family and child counselor trainees as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 4980.03 of the Business and Professions Code; unlicensed marriage, family and child counselor interns registered under Section 4980.44 of the Business and Professions Code; state or county public health employees who treat minors for venereal disease or any other condition; coroners; paramedics; and religious practitioners who diagnose, examine, or treat children.

"Child visitation monitor" means any person as defined in Section 11165.15.

(Please complete and sign below)

I have been informed of the above law and will comply with its provisions.

(Print)	First Name	Last Name
X		
Signature		Date

This statement is a permanent record of the district. The cost of printing, distribution, and filing of these statements is borne by the district.

This subdivision is not applicable to persons employed by child protective agencies, public or private youth centers, youth recreation programs and youth organizations as members of the support staff or maintenance staff and who do not work with, observe, or have knowledge of children as part of their official duties.

LEGAL REFERENCE

EDUCATION CODE

48906 Notification of Parents/Guardians

PENAL CODE

11165.6 Definition of Child Abuse
 11166 Delegating Child Abuse Reporting Exceptions
 11167 Reporting to Site Admin.
 11167.5 Confidentiality Requirements
 11174.3 Staff Attending On Campus interview
 273a Definition of Child Abuse
 273d Definition of Child Abuse

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEGAL ADVISORY

LO: 3-93 Child Abuse Definitions
Department of Justice Form (DOJ SS 8572)