

THE RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NY

5460

CHILD ABUSE IN A DOMESTIC SETTING

The District recognizes that because of their sustained contact with school-aged children, District employees are in an excellent position to identify abused or maltreated children and refer them for treatment and protection.

The purpose of mandatory reporting is to identify suspected abused and maltreated children as soon as possible, so that such children determined to be abused or maltreated can be protected from further harm and, where appropriate, can be offered services to assist such children and their families.

School officials who have reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or maltreatment must immediately report such abuse or maltreatment to the New York State Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment (Central Register), as required by law. No conditions may be imposed which limit such officials' responsibility to report. A school official is defined as:

- Teacher
- Guidance Counselor
- Psychologist
- Nurse
- Administrator
- Any school personnel required to hold a teaching or administrative license or certificate.

The school official will also report the matter to the Building Principal.

The report shall be made by telephone or by telephone facsimile machine on a form supplied by the Commissioner of Social Services. A written report of abuse or maltreatment shall be made within forty-eight hours to the appropriate local child protective, and to the statewide Central Register.

School employees who are not school officials, as defined above, but who have reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuses or maltreatment, are encouraged to report to the Central Register and must report the matter to the Building Principal. If the matter has not yet been reported to the Central Register, the Building Principal shall make the report, in accordance with state law. In being required to file such report, the Building Principal does not have discretion.

School employees or officials may not contact the child's family or any other person to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or maltreatment. It is not the responsibility of the school official or employee to prove that the child had been abused or maltreated.

Any school official or employee who has cause to suspect that the death of any child is a result of child abuse or maltreatment must report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner.

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In accordance with the law, any school official who fails to report an instance of suspected child abuse or maltreatment may be guilty of a class A misdemeanor and may be held liable for the damages caused by the failure to report. The law grants immunity from any liability to persons who, in good faith, report instances of child abuse

School employees will not be subject to retaliatory action, as defined in state law, as a result of making a report when they reasonably suspect that a child has been abused or maltreated.

The District will cooperate to the extent possible with authorized child protective services workers in investigations of alleged child abuse.

The School District shall maintain an ongoing training program which will address the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment. Attendance at sessions of this training program shall be required of all school officials. Attendance records shall be kept, and notations will be made in personnel files as to the dates of attendance.

The Superintendent shall develop, with input from appropriate personnel, a plan for implementation of such a training program, to be approved by the Board. In addition, the policy and regulations will be included in all employee handbooks and distributed annually to all school officials who are not covered under existing handbooks. The Superintendent will prepare and implement all regulations as are necessary to accomplish the intent of this policy.

A copy of this policy, along with the administrative regulations explaining the reporting requirements, shall be distributed to all members of the professional staff.

References: Child Protective Services Act of 1973
Social Services Law §§411 et seq.
Family Court Act §1012
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,
20 USC §1232g, 45 CFR §99.36
Education Law §3209-a

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