

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Colcord Public Schools
2013-2014



LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

Child Abuse and Neglect

- Teachers and administrators must receive **annual professional development** on child abuse and neglect.
(S.B. 1493)

Definition: What is Child Abuse?

- **Harm or threatened harm** to a child's health or safety by a person responsible for the child's health and safety.

Includes non-accidental physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or exploitation, or emotional abuse.

A child is any person under the age of 18.

Definitions: Child Abuse & Neglect

- A person responsible for a child is defined as one who is responsible for the child's health or safety, such as
 - ↓ Parents or legal guardians
 - ↓ Foster parents
 - ↓ A person 18 years of age or older with whom the child is cohabiting
 - ↓ Any other adult residing in the home

Definition: Physical Abuse

- Non-accidental physical injury to a child under the age of 18
 - *Physical abuse can be more obvious than sexual abuse or neglect but the abuse is often hidden under clothing.*
 - *Can be one time event or a pattern of behavior.*
 - *Can be an injury that doesn't fit the explanation.*
 - *Delays in seeking medical attention should serve as red flags.*

Indicators: Physical Abuse

Consider the possibility of physical abuse when the child exhibits:

- *unexplained bruises, especially in various stages of healing*
- *welts, lacerations, or abrasions*
- *burns, especially cigarette burns*
- *patterned marks, such as belt or loop marks*

Indicators: Physical Abuse

- *injuries on two or more places of the child's body such as the buttocks and arms*
- *cuts or punctures*
- *bald spots*
- *head injuries*

Indicators: Physical Abuse

- *wears clothing inappropriate for the weather to cover the body*
- *limited verbal ability*
- *limited self esteem*
- *cognitive or intellectual deficits*

Definition: Child Neglect

- Failure or omission to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision or special care made necessary by the physical or mental condition of a child.

Indicators: Child Neglect

- Consider the possibility of neglect when the child exhibits:
 - *listlessness or apathy*
 - *consistent hunger*
 - *developmental delays*
 - *consistent lack of supervision especially in dangerous activities or for long periods of time*

Indicators: Child Neglect

- *depression*
- *frequent absences from school*
- *language delays or disorders*
- *low self esteem*
- *poor social skills*
- *a high incidence of juvenile delinquency*
- *passivity tending toward helplessness*
- *inappropriate dress for the weather*

Types: Child Neglect

- Failure to Protect
- Inadequate Shelter
- Lack of Supervision
- Substance Abuse by Parent
- Lack of Physical Care
- Need of Medical Care
- Inadequate Nutrition
- Educational Neglect
- Abandonment
- Need Psychological Attention

Types: Sexual Abuse or Exploitation

Includes but not limited to:

- Rape
- Incest
- Lewd or indecent acts/proposals
- Allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution or pornography.

Indicators: Sexual Abuse

Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the child has:

- *torn, stained or bloody underclothing*
- *sexually transmitted diseases*
- *inflammation, bruises, bite marks, pain or itching in the genital area*
- *frequent urinary infections*

Definition: Emotional Abuse

Difficult to define.

- Has not received as much focus as other forms of abuse.
- Can occur alone but is most often found in conjunction with other forms of abuse.
- Impact on the child's development.

Indicators: Emotional Abuse

Consider the possibility of emotional abuse when the child exhibits:

- *eating disorders*
- *inappropriate wetting or soiling*
- *speech disorder or stuttering*
- *attachment problems*
- *reduced emotional responsiveness*
- *habit disorders, such as head banging*

Indicators: Emotional Abuse

- *poor peer relationships*
- *behavioral extremes*
- *poor self esteem*
- *repeats negative comments*
- *chronic academic underachievement*
- *self destructive behavior, oblivious to the hazards or risks*

Reporting: WHO?

- Who is Required to Report Suspected Child Abuse?

Every health care professional, **teacher**, and every OTHER person having a reason to believe that a child under 18 is being abused or neglected or is in danger of being abused or neglected is required to report.

Reporting

- Reporting is an individual responsibility.
- If you report in good faith, by law you are immune from prosecution.
- Failure to report is a misdemeanor punishable by six months in jail, a \$500 fine, or both.
- No person is exempt from reporting.

Making a Report



- PROMPTLY call DHS in the county where the abuse occurred or the statewide 24 hour hotline.
- **1-800-522-3511 Hotline**
- Record the name of the employee who took the report.
- Each report is assigned a number; record this number for follow-up.

Reporting: Related to Schools

- Reporting is an individual responsibility.
- DHS, not the school, is responsible for notifying the parents that a child was interviewed regarding a child abuse investigation.
- DO NOT delve into a child's situation beyond determining whether there is reason to believe the child is being abused or neglected, or child is in danger of being abused or neglected.

Confidentiality

- Do professional codes of conduct regarding confidentiality prohibit professionals from reporting child abuse and neglect?

Oklahoma Law is very clear.

The duty to report supersedes professionals' confidentiality codes when there is reason to believe that a child is abused or neglected.

HOTLINES: Child Abuse and Neglect

- 1-800-522-3511
State Hotline Number

Adapted from a PowerPoint by:



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RESOURCE:

Child Abuse Prevention Service
Family Health Services
Oklahoma State
Department of Health