

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

The Ohio General Assembly has granted legal immunity for those persons reporting suspected cases of child abuse. Such persons must immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse.

- A. Principals, teachers, counselors, school psychologists and other staff members who are acting in an official or professional capacity who know or suspect that a child less than eighteen (18) years of age or any mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired child under twenty-one (21) years of age has suffered or faces the threat of suffering a physical or mental wound, injury, disability or condition of such a nature as to reasonably indicate abuse or neglect of such child shall immediately report the knowledge or suspicion to the agency or officer responsible for children services functions in the county in which the child resides. Such reports shall be made forthwith by telephone or in person and shall be followed by a written report, if requested. Such report shall contain:
1. The name and address of the child and his parents or person or persons having custody of such child, if known;
 2. The child's age and the nature and extent of the child's injuries or physical neglect, including any evidence of previous injuries or physical neglect;
 3. Any other information which might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injury or physical neglect; and
 4. A copy of the above-listed report items shall be forwarded to the Superintendent and building principal.
- B. The building principal shall be notified immediately of any suspected child abuse or neglect. The building principal or designee will assist in the notification of proper authorities, the preparation of the written report, if required, and such other matters as may be necessary.
- C. Anyone or any hospital, institution, school, health department or agency participating in the making of such reports, or anyone participating in a judicial proceeding resulting from such report shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of such actions.

Each person employed by the Board of Education to work in an elementary school as a nurse, teacher, counselor, school psychologist or administrator shall complete at least four (4) hours of in-service training in the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse; the promotion of positive youth development, school safety and violence prevention within two (2) years of commencing employment with the District and every five (5) years thereafter. Effective November 2, 2012, the in-service training shall incorporate training on the Board Policy on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying.

Each person employed by the Board as of October 16, 2009 to work in a middle or high school as a nurse, teacher, counselor, school psychologist, or administrator shall complete at least four (4) hours of training in the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse; the promotion of positive youth development, school safety and violence prevention; and the prevention of dating violence within two (2) years of commencing employment with the District and every five (5) years thereafter. Effective November 2, 2012, the in-service training shall incorporate training on the Board Policy on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying.

In the course of conducting child abuse investigations and in the absence of a court order or subpoena directing otherwise, a District administrator shall be present for any interviews conducted by county children services officials and/or municipal or county peace officers while under the supervision of the school.

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §3319.073

Adopted: August 12, 2014