REPORTING

All personnel shall be alert for any evidence of child abuse or neglect. If personnel know or have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect, a report shall be filed immediately. Reports shall be made to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction, to the county office of the Department of Children's Services (DCS), to the sheriff of the county where the child resides, or to the office of the chief law enforcement official where the child resides.

Child abuse is defined as any wound, injury, disability, or physical or mental condition which reasonably indicates that it has been caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect. Staff members having knowledge or suspicion of any child who is suffering from abuse or neglect shall report such harm immediately. The report shall be made to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction or to the county office of the Department of Children's Services or to the office of the chief law enforcement official where the child resides.

The report shall include, to the extent known by the reporter:

1. The name, address, telephone number, and age of the child;
2. The name, telephone number, and address of the parents or persons having custody of the child;
3. The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect; and
4. Any evidence to the cause or any other information that may relate to the cause or extent of the abuse or neglect.

The identity of the person reporting shall remain confidential except when the juvenile court determines otherwise.

The Superintendent/designee shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of abuse and neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all school personnel.

INVESTIGATIONS

School administrators and employees have a duty to cooperate, provide assistance and information in child abuse investigations including permitting child abuse review teams to conduct interviews while the child is at school; the principal may control the time, place and circumstances of the interview, but may not insist that a school employee be present even if the suspected abuser is a school employee or another student. The principal is not in violation of any laws by failing to inform parents that the child is to be interviewed even if the suspected abuser is not a member of the child's household.
Legal References

1. TCA 37-1-412
2. TCA 37-1-403(a)(1)
3. TCA 37-1-403(b); TCA 49-6-1601(b)
4. TCA 37-1-409(a)(1)
5. TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.08(2)(e)
6. TCA 37-1-611(b)

Cross References
Recommendations and File Transfers 5.203
Staff-Student Relations 5.610
Interrogations and Searches 6.303
Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation 6.304