



Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy

Utah law requires that whenever any person, including any school employee, contracted or temporary employee, or volunteer who has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to incest, molestation, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect, or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect, he/she shall immediately notify the nearest peace officer, law enforcement agency, or the Division of Child and Family Services, and report to the principal (this can be orally or in writing, and in person). The law provides serious penalties for the failure to fulfill one's duty to report.

1. The reporting employee must record the name of the individual and the agency contacted to make the required report, and must complete and provide a copy of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form to the Principal within twenty-four hours. *The form is available in the office.*
2. Investigations by staff prior to submitting a report shall not go beyond what is minimally necessary to support a reasonable belief that a reportable problem exists.
3. It is not the responsibility of the principal or any other school employees to prove who the abuser is or that the child has been abused or neglected, or to determine whether the child is in need of protection.
4. School employees shall not contact the parents, relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. for the purpose of determining the cause of the injury and/or apparent neglect.
5. School employees shall not conduct interviews with the child or contact the suspected abuser regarding the suspected abuse.
6. If school officials are contacted by parents about child abuse reports, school personnel shall not confirm or deny that a contact or investigation is taking place. A school employee should refer the caller to law enforcement or DCFS.
7. School officials shall cooperate with DCFS and law enforcement employees authorized to investigate reports of alleged child abuse and neglect.
8. Persons making reports or participating in good faith in an investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect are immune from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might arise from those actions.