



## **NORTH WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **School Employee's Desk Reference on Child Abuse and Neglect**

## **IMMEDIATELY**

*Step 1: Call  
1-877-NJ ABUSE  
(1-877-652-2873)*

*Step 2: Notify Principal/  
Administration to call  
Law Enforcement*

#### **Additional Information**

**NJ State Police  
908-475-5098**

**Blairstown Police  
Department  
908-362-8266**

### **What is the role of DCPD**

The Division of Child Protection and Permanency, DCPD (formerly the Division of Youth and Family Services, DYFS), is New Jersey's child protection and child welfare agency within the Department of Children and Families. Its mission is to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and to support families. DCPD receives and investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect.

### **What is the role of Law Enforcement?**

- To investigate and prosecute those referrals of child abuse and neglect which may warrant criminal charges.
- To conduct sensitive and age-appropriate interviews of children and other involved parties.

### **What is the role of School?**

- Any reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse/neglect **must be reported** to DCPD and law enforcement.
- To cooperate with DCPD and law enforcement in a coordinated, multidisciplinary response.

### **What About Allegations Involving School Personnel?**

The DCF Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU) investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect in institutions and other out-of-home settings that serve children: day care centers, schools, foster homes.

#### **In closing...**

**Err on the side of caution! Call the Hotline, and they will help determine if the situation is considered child abuse and/or neglect.**

**By law (N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.13), you are protected from civil or criminal liability, discharge from employment and discrimination, if you make a report in "good faith".**

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## **What are my obligations to report child abuse/neglect?**

Child Abuse crime is a criminal offense committed under any law of a State that involves the physical, emotional, or sexual mistreatment or injury of a child by a parent or another party responsible for the child's welfare, either purposefully, or due to neglect.

**More specifically, any physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, sexual contact, sexual conduct, sexual assault, or any other inappropriate behavior of a child by a parent, school staff member, caregiver, or another party responsible for the child's welfare falls under this law.**

By state law (N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10 and 18A:36-25) and NJDOE regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1), any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse/neglect must notify the Department of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP, formerly DYFS).

When you call DCPP, ask for the name of the individual that is taking the report, and note the date and time that you are making the report.

After reporting to DCPP, any school district employee, volunteer, or intern must inform the principal or other designated school official so that law enforcement authorities can be notified. This is known as dual reporting.

## **Information Needed When Making a Report**

When making a report to DCPP and/or law enforcement, provide the following information **when possible:**

- Name of the student
- Age and grade of the student
- Name and address of student's parent or guardian and other household members.
- Nature and extent of the student's injuries, abuse, or maltreatment, if known.
- Any other pertinent information that the caller believes may be of assistance to DCPP or law enforcement.

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## **What if I suspect abuse and DO NOT report it?**

Knowingly not reporting abuse or neglect can have devastating consequences on a child and LEGAL consequences on **YOU!!!**

**Any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse according to the law is a disorderly person and subject to a fine up to \$1,000 or up to six months in prison, or both!!!**

All reports of child abuse and all information obtained by DCPP are confidential.