

CHILD ABUSE

School policy states: When school personnel suspect child abuse and/or neglect, the law requires the following procedure be followed:

The suspected child abuse and/or neglect will be reported immediately to the Florida Abuse Registry, 1-800-962-2873. See Child Abuse Indicator information at the end of the section.

The "Notice of Referral to Child Abuse" form should be returned anonymously to your school administrator as soon as possible after calling the Child Abuse Registry at 1-800-962-2873.

Mandated reporting of CHILD ABUSE

On October 1, 1995, Chapter 98-328, F.S., became law. Among the provisions of the statute is the requirement that mandated reporters of child abuse must provide their names to the Abuse Hotline counselor at the time a report is made.

Mandated reporters include schoolteachers and other school officials or personnel. **IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS, THE CHANGE IN FLORIDA LAW AFFECTS YOU:**

Physician Osteopath Medical Examiner Chiropractor Nurse
Hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care of treatment of children
Health professional
Mental health professional
Practitioner who rely solely on spiritual means for healing School teacher
School official or personnel Social worker
Day care center worker
Professional child care worker Foster care worker
Residential care worker Institutional worker

The 1995 Legislature changed the law concerning mandatory reports of child abuse, neglect or abandonment. It is no longer possible for you to anonymously report child abuse, neglect or abandonment to the Florida Abuse Hotline. The new law requires that you provide your name when calling 1-800-96ABUSE. Your name will be held confidential.

The law reads as follows:

Reporters in occupation categories designated in subsection (1) are required to provide their names to the hotline staff. The names of reporters shall be entered into the record of the report but shall be held confidential as provided in 415.51(9), ss. 415.50(2)(b), Florida Statutes.

For complete details on the law, refer to Chapter 95-228, Laws of Florida, or contact your local office of Children and Family Services.