

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING PROTOCOL  
FOR  
EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Jones County School System

# Mandated Reporters are all school system employees and school volunteers such as:

- ▣ Administrators
- ▣ Social Workers
- ▣ Bus Drivers
- ▣ Teachers
- ▣ Cafeteria Workers
- ▣ Counselors
- ▣ Custodians
- ▣ Professional Assistants
- ▣ Clinic Assistants
- ▣ Paraprofessionals
- ▣ Nurses
- ▣ Psychologists
- ▣ Bookkeepers
- ▣ Data Clerks
- ▣ Clinic Assistants
- ▣ School Resource Officers
- ▣ Parent Volunteers

## *“Reasonable Cause”*

- ▣ Anytime a school system employee/volunteer has reasonable cause to believe that a student is a victim of abuse, they are required by Board Policy and State law to immediately report
- ▣ Reasonable Cause is defined as a suspicion founded upon circumstances sufficiently strong to warrant a reasonable person to believe that something is true

# Mandated Reporters

- ▣ All suspected abuse by mandated reporters must be reported to Department of Family and Children Services within 24 hours of hearing, observing or suspecting abuse
- ▣ The state grants immunity for any civil or criminal liability for the making of a report based on the requirement that the report is made in good faith

# Failure to Report

- ▣ In Georgia, any person who is a mandated reporter and knowingly and willfully fails to report shall be guilty of a misdemeanor
- ▣ In the Jones County School System, any mandated reporter who knowingly and willfully fails to report child abuse is in violation of Board Policy

# Four Major Types of Child Abuse

1. **Physical abuse:** examples include, but are not limited to, injury or death inflicted upon a child by a parent or caretaker thereof by other than accidental means
2. **Neglect/Maltreatment:** examples include, but are not limited to, emotional abuse, often left home alone, in the neighborhood for long periods without supervision, frequently hungry, dressed inadequately for winter, absent from school frequently, not receiving any needed medical attention for minor (i.e. providing medical attention for minor during pregnancy and at the time of birth for both mother and child)

# Four Major Types of Child Abuse

3. **Sexual Abuse:** examples include, but are not limited to, employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing any minor who is not that person's spouse to engage in any act which involves sexual intercourse, masturbation, lewd exhibition of genitals, or apparent sexual stimulation or gratification.

## Four Major Types of Child Abuse

4. **Sexual Exploitation:** examples include, but are not limited to, conduct by any person who allows, permits, encourages, or requires a child to engage in prostitution as defined in Code Section 16-6-9 or sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual or print medium depicting such conduct, as defined in Code Section 16-12-100

## Child Abuse Reporting Protocol for All Mandated Reporters

A mandated reporter suspects that child abuse or child neglect has occurred

The mandated reporter should complete a Child Abuse Reporting Form and immediately contact the Principal or Principal Designee

All suspected child abuse must be immediately reported to DFCS by the School Social Worker, Principal or Principal Designee (within 24 hours)

# Questions?

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