

**2016-2017
Child Abuse:
Recognition and Reporting**

Training Objectives

- To remind teachers, principals, administrators and other school employees of their statutory responsibility to report suspected child abuse and neglect.
- To provide some information about the statutory definition of child abuse and neglect.
- To review how teachers, principals, administrators and other school employees can report child abuse.
- To provide teachers, principals, administrators and other employees some tools to use in carrying out their statutory responsibility to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

Why Report Child Abuse

It's the law in Oklahoma.

10A O.S. §§ 1-2-101, B1

“Every person having reason to believe that a child under the age of eighteen years is a victim of abuse or neglect shall report the matter promptly to the Department of Human Services (DHS).”

Who Must Report Child Abuse

Mandatory reporting of child abuse is required of every person, private citizen and professional including:

- Certified teachers
- Certified principals
- Certified administrators
- Classified teacher assistants
- Other school employees

who has reason to believe a child has been abused or neglected or is in danger of being abused.

Who Must Report Child Abuse

- Making a child abuse report is an **INDIVIDUAL** responsibility.
- A person making a report, in good faith, is immune from civil or criminal liability.
- The name of the reporter is kept confidential by DHS.
- Failure to report promptly is a misdemeanor.

Who Must Report Child Abuse

- Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect to an administrator, principal, director or supervisor **BEFORE** you file a suspected child abuse report with DHS is a violation of the law and may be a misdemeanor.
- Dewey Public Schools **DOES NOT** require any employee to tell their supervisor that a report of suspected child abuse has been filed with DHS.

When to Report Child Abuse

A report should be made **EACH TIME** there is **REASONABLE CAUSE** to believe that a child has been abused or neglected or is in danger of being abused or neglected.



How to Report Suspected Abuse

CALL

24-Hour Statewide Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-522-3511

CALL or VISIT

Bartlesville Field Operations Office
Oklahoma Department of Human Services

5205 Jacquelyn Lane, 74006 Office

Hours - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

918-338-5700 or 1-800-734-7512

What to Report

- Name of the student
- Gender of the student
- Age of the student
- Address of the student, if known
- Current location of student, if known
- Name(s), address, place(s) of employment, and phone number(s) of the adult(s) responsible for the student's safety, health and welfare
- Factual description of student's injuries

What to Report

- Personal opinions and inferences **SHOULD NOT** be included in the report.
- When you make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect to DHS, your responsibility is **FINISHED**.
- It is the responsibility of individual teachers, principals, administrators and other school employees to **REPORT** suspected child abuse.
- It is the responsibility of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) to **ASSESS, INVESTIGATE, CONFIRM and ACT UPON** the report.

Child Abuse

- Child abuse is typically a pattern of behavior that is repeated over time but can also be a single incident.
- Child abuse occurs when a parent, legal guardian, foster parent or other caregiver:
 - Injures or causes a child to be injured, tortured or maimed
 - Uses unreasonable force on a child
 - Uses unnecessary harsh discipline
 - Uses punishment that is too severe
 - Engages in or allows a third party to engage in sexual exploitation of a child under the age of 18 years.

Categories of Child Abuse

There are five categories of reportable child abuse:

- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse



Neglect

Neglect occurs when a

- parent
- legal guardian
- foster parent, or
- other caregiver

fails to provide

- adequate food,
- appropriate clothing,
- safe shelter,
- adequate medical care,
- protection, and
- supervision or
- special physical or mental needs care when indicated

to a child, birth to 18 years of age.



Neglect

- Indicators that may be observed in the school setting:
 - Student consistently arrives at school hungry; asks to take food home or digs through food disposal containers.
 - Student has poor hygiene, matted hair, dirty skin or bad body odor.
 - Student has untreated or frequent reoccurrence of head lice
 - Student is frequently tardy or absent.
 - Student frequently falls asleep in class, exhibits chronic fatigue, or is listless and unfocused during instruction time.
 - Student has frequent colds and other medical needs that are not addressed by a health care provider.
 - Student is often dropped off early at school and left without supervision or picked up late.

Neglect

- Caregiver behaviors that may indicate child neglect and may be observed in the school setting:
 - Caregiver (parent, legal guardian, foster parent, child care provider) consistently fails to keep appointments with teachers or principal.
 - Caregiver seems to be unengaged in and unsupportive of student's learning activities.
 - Caregiver appears to have a health issue, developmental disability or drug problems that interfere with the ability to provide basic needs for the student.

Abandonment

Abandonment may occur when a parent, guardian or caregiver

- gives a child away
- leaves a child and does not return
- leaves a child unattended for long periods of time
- forces a child to leave the home

Indicators that may be observed in the school setting:

- Student wears the same clothing for many days.
- Older student may miss several days or drop out of school to care for younger siblings.
- Student may tell someone they are being left alone for extended periods of time.
- Student may appear extremely anxious toward the end of the school day.
- Student is evasive when asked about caregiver.

Physical Abuse



Physical abuse is nonaccidental, intentional physical injury to a child under the age of 18 by a parent, legal guardian, foster parent or other caregiver.

Physical Abuse

May Include:

Beatings

Shaking

Burns

Human bites

Strangulation

Immersion in
scalding water

Resulting In:

Bruises, welts and broken bones

Internal Injuries

Blisters and scars

Broken skin and bruises

Broken skin and bruises

Unconsciousness and
marks on neck

Physical Abuse

- Physical Indicators that may be observed in the school setting:
 - Unexplained bruises and welts on the face torso, back or thighs.
 - Bruises, welts, burns and lacerations in various stages of healing.
 - Unexplained burns on the palms of hands, soles of feet and back.
- Behavioral indicators that may be observed in the school setting:
 - Student may back away or duck when approached by an adult.
 - Student becomes anxious near the end of the school day.
 - Student asks to stay at school.
 - Student is overly shy.
 - Student avoids contact with adults.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse means any sexual activity or propositioning between an adult and a child for purpose of sexually stimulating the adult, the child or others.



Sexual abuse may be committed by a parent, step-parent, grandparent, sibling, cousin, other family member or friend.

Sexual Abuse

- **Indicators that may be observed in the school setting:**
 - Sexual knowledge or behavior beyond that expected for the child's developmental level.
 - Fearful of or anxious around adults
 - Frequent headaches, backaches and stomach aches.
 - Avoidance of dressing for gym class or wearing extra layers of clothing.
 - Decline in school performance and participation in school activities.
- **Caregiver behaviors that may indicate sexual abuse of a child and may be observed in the school setting:**
 - Caregiver is extremely protective of student especially during physical activities.
 - Caregiver limits time student is at school, picking them up early and dropping them off late.

Emotional Abuse



Emotional abuse is injury to a child's psychological growth and development that diminishes the sense of identity, dignity and self-worth.

Emotional Abuse May Include:

- Confinement
- Isolation
- Verbal assault
- Humiliation
- Intimidation
- Rejection
- Criticism
- Exploitation and corruption
- Denial of emotional responsiveness



Emotional Abuse

- **Indicators that may be observed in the school setting:**
 - Student lags in physical, social and emotional development.
 - Older students may exhibit sucking, biting and rocking behaviors not related to a mental or physical development disorder.
 - Student may exhibit behavioral extremes: compliant, passive, demanding, antisocial, destructive, overly needy.
 - Student may be self-destructive, cutting, attempting suicide.
- **Caregiver behaviors that may indicate emotional abuse of a child and may be observed in the school setting:**
 - Caregiver has impossible expectations or makes unreasonable demands of student.
 - Caregiver seems unconcerned about student's problems.
 - Caregiver treats student with disrespect.
 - Caregiver blames student for caregiver's mistakes.

When an Abused Student Tells

- There may be times when an abused student may tell you directly or indirectly about abuse in their family.
- It is difficult for students to talk about their abuse, especially when they think it will get them or their family into trouble.
- It is important for school employees to handle their disclosure with sensitivity.
 - Provide a private time and place to listen to the student.
 - Reassure the student that they have done the right thing by telling you.
 - Inform the student that you are required by law to report the abuse.
 - Do not express shock or criticize the family.
 - Use the student's vocabulary to discuss the abuse.

When an Abused Student Tells

- Reassure the student that the abuse is not their fault; they are not bad or to blame.
- Determine their immediate need for safety.

Fact

In SFY-2013 Oklahoma DHS received over 70,000 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect involving 128,024 children.



Fact



In SFY-2013 Oklahoma DHS substantiated more than 6,000 reports of child abuse and neglect involving 11,419 children.

Resources

24-Hour Statewide Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-522-3511

Oklahoma State Department of Human Services

<http://okdhs.org/>

Bartlesville Field Operations Office

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

5205 Jacquelyn Lane, 74006 Office

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918-338-5700 or 1-800-734-7512

It is mandatory that you now complete a short monkey survey from the PD on Child Abuse and Recognition. Please click on the appropriate link that corresponds with your site.

Elementary Staff:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YFQ32RY>

Middle School Staff:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGMYJ87>

High School Staff:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YHR3W6V>