

**REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR
REPORTING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT****INTRODUCTION:**

Pursuant to Board Policy # 6730 it states:

The Pamlico County Board of Education fully supports the law requiring any person, including any employee of the Pamlico County Board of Education, who has cause to suspect that a juvenile (less than eighteen years old who is not married or emancipated) is or has been abused or neglected by his or her parent or other person responsible for his care, or that a juvenile is “dependent” (needs assistance or placement because of the lack of a parent or caretaker or whose parent or caretaker is unable to provide supervision) or has died as the result of maltreatment, to report the case of that juvenile to the Director of the Pamlico County Department of Social Services. The Board endorses the active cooperation of all of its employees with the Department of Social Services in order that the Department of Social Services may investigate the report of alleged neglect or abuse, offer immediate protection to any child needing protection, and provide or arrange for services to help the parent solve those problems which lead to abuse or neglect. The Board shall actively support all employees who make a report of child abuse or neglect in good faith. Employees should be aware that the law protects from liability any person who makes such a good faith report and that the law presumes such reports to have been made in good faith.

GENERAL RULE:

North Carolina’s reporting law applies to every person and every institution in the State. It requires “[a]ny person or institution who has cause to suspect that any juvenile is abused, neglected, or dependent, as defined by G.S. 7B-101, or has died as the result of maltreatment” to make a report to the county department of social services. The reporting requirement applies to doctors, social workers, therapists, teachers, law enforcement officers and others whose professions sometimes involve them directly with problems of abuse, neglect, or dependency. It applies equally, though, to housing inspectors, store clerks, co-workers, friends, relatives, bystanders and all others.

PROCEDURES:

- 6730P.1 Any staff member of the Pamlico County Schools System who receives information by way of observing or hearing, creating the person cause to suspect that a child is being abused, neglected, or dependent, shall report this information to the principal of the student involved. Staff members who are not based at a school shall report this information to their immediate supervisor, who in turn shall report it to the child’s principal.
- 6730P.2 The principal will share this information with the school social worker and/or nurse.
- 6730P.3 The principal, social worker or nurse shall make a report to the Pamlico County Department of Social Services. The report may be done in person, by telephone, or in writing.

6730P.4

The report should include as much of the following information as the person reporting knows:

1. the child's name, age, and address;
2. the name and address of the child's parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker;
3. the names and ages of other children in the home;
4. the child's location, if the child is not at the home address;
5. the nature and extent of any injury or condition resulting from abuse, neglect, or dependency; and
6. any other information that might help to establish the need for protective services or court intervention.

NOTE: It is not the responsibility of the school to investigate, only to report.

February 3, 2010