

Elizabethton Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Child Abuse and Neglect	Descriptor Code: 6.409	Issued Date: 08/21/18
		Rescinds: 6.409	Issued: 09/20/16

1 REPORTING

2 All personnel shall be alert for any evidence of child abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.¹ If personnel know
3 or have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect, a report shall be filed immediately. Reports shall
4 be made to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction, to the county office of the Department of Children's
5 Services (DCS), to the sheriff of the county where the child resides, or to the office of the chief law-
6 enforcement official where the child resides.²

7 The report shall include, to the extent known by the reporter:³

- 8 1. The name, address, telephone number, and age of the child;
- 9 2. The name, telephone number, address of the parents or persons having custody of the child;
- 10 3. The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect; and
- 11 4. Any evidence to the cause or any other information that may relate to the cause or extent of the
12 abuse or neglect.

13 The identity of the person reporting shall remain confidential except when the juvenile court
14 determines otherwise.⁴

15 Notice that a report was filed, and any other information relevant to the wellbeing of the child, shall be
16 verbally provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) within twenty-four (24) hours of filing. This notice shall
17 be made in coordination with DCS. Notice shall not be provided if there is reasonable cause to believe
18 that the parent or legal guardian may be the perpetrator or in any way responsible for abuse.⁵

19 The Director of Schools/designee shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of
20 abuse and neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all school personnel.⁶

21 INVESTIGATIONS

22 School administrators and employees have a duty to cooperate, provide assistance and information in
23 child abuse investigations⁷ including permitting child abuse review teams to conduct interviews while
24 the child is at school; the principal may control the time, place and circumstances of the interview, but
25 may not insist that a school employee be present even if the suspected abuser is a school employee or
26 another student. The principal is not in violation of any laws by failing to inform parents that the child
27 is to be interviewed even if the suspected abuser is not a member of the child's household.⁸

Legal References

1. TCA 37-1-403(a)(1); TCA 37-1-412; TCA 37-1-602; TCA 37-1-605
2. TCA 37-1-403(a)(2)
3. TCA 37-1-403(b); TCA 49-6-1601(b)
4. TCA 37-1-409(a)(1)
5. TCA 37-1-605(d); TCA 49-6-1601
6. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.08(2)(e)
7. TCA 37-1-611(b)
8. Tenn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 87-101 (June 9, 1987)

Cross References

Recommendations and File Transfers 5.203
Staff-Student Relations 5.610
Interrogations and Searches 6.303
Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying,
Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation 6.304