

# Decatur County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in April</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Child Abuse and Neglect</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.409</b>	Issued Date: <b>07/13/17</b>
		Rescinds: <b>6.409</b>	Issued: <b>11/10/05</b>

## 1 **REPORTING**

2 All personnel shall be alert for any evidence of child abuse or neglect.<sup>1</sup>

3 Child abuse is defined as any wound, injury, disability, or physical or mental condition which  
4 reasonably indicates that it has been caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect. Staff members having  
5 knowledge or suspicion of any child who is suffering from abuse or neglect shall report such harm  
6 immediately.<sup>1,2</sup> The report shall be made to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction, to the county office  
7 of the Department of Children's Services, to the sheriff of the county where the child resides, or to the  
8 office of the chief law-enforcement official where the child resides.<sup>3</sup>

9 The report shall include:<sup>4</sup>

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

15 The identity of the person reporting shall remain confidential except when the juvenile court  
16 determines otherwise.<sup>5</sup>

17 The director of schools/designee shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of  
18 abuse and neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all school personnel.<sup>6</sup>

## 19 **INVESTIGATIONS**

20 School administrators and employees have a duty to cooperate, provide assistance, and information in  
21 child abuse investigations<sup>7</sup> including permitting child abuse review teams to conduct interviews while  
22 the child is at school; the principal may control the time, place, and circumstances of the interview, but  
23 may not insist that a school employee be present even if the suspected abuser is a school employee or  
24 another student. The principal is not in violation of any laws by failing to inform parents that the child  
25 is to be interviewed even if the suspected abuser is not a member of the child's household.<sup>8</sup>

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Legal References

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

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Cross References