

Foster School District

Policy # 5141.1

Child Abuse and Neglect

The Foster School Department, recognizing the harmful effects of child abuse and neglect, does hereby emphatically support those section(s) of R.I G.L.* concerned with the reporting of suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

Realizing the seriousness of child abuse and neglect, the Department requires compliance with his law by all school administrators, teachers, school officials, school staff, and other employees who work during regular school hours. The child's safety and welfare override any other issue.

General Considerations:

The duty to report is triggered when an individual has "reasonable cause" to suspect that a child under the age of 18 has been abused and/or neglected by either a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare, such as a teacher, foster-parent, or child/day care provider.

When a teacher, school official or other employee who works during regular school hours suspects abuse or neglect, that person must promptly transfer that information to DCYF by calling the child abuse hot line.

Immunity from Liability

An individual who makes a report will be granted immunity from civil or criminal liability so long as the report was made in good faith – meaning that the report was not prompted by improper motives such as revenge or the desire to cause harm.*

Administrative Authority:

The Superintendent, along with the school Principal, shall have in place a comprehensive mechanism for reporting and recording all incidents of suspected child or neglect.

The state agency in Rhode Island that is responsible for protecting children from abuse or neglect is the Department of children, Youth and Families (DCYF). DCYF maintains a 24-hour / seven-day-a-week Hotline for the reporting of suspected abuse or neglect. The Hotline number is: 1-800-RI-CHILD (1-800-742-4453). DCYF's web site is:

www.dcyf.state.ri.us

First Reading: 26, May 2009

Second Reading: 23, June 2009

- *Public Law 40-11-4: "Any person participating in good faith in making a report ... shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal ..."