

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Background

The District expects all employees and those contracted to the District to adhere to this Administrative Procedure. The following general principles shall apply in conjunction with the Administrative Procedure and the formal Trilateral Protocol:

- That protection of children is of paramount interest to the District, both within its jurisdiction and in society in general.
- That all those employed or contracted by the District have a legal duty to report abuse/neglect
- That all those employed or contracted by the District are in a position of trust and their conduct is to reflect this trust.
- That collaboration and cooperation with other agencies and ministries is an effective way to promote the best interests of children.
- That employees be informed of the requirements of this Administrative Procedure during new employee orientation sessions and at the beginning of the year at each school or site.
- That release of information/investigations is subject to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation, and/or any contractual obligations, and the need to avoid prejudging any investigations.

The District shall cooperate with the Ministry for Children and Families and the RCMP and participate in any protocols that are jointly developed. In matters solely under the jurisdiction of the District this Administrative Procedure shall take precedence over such protocol(s) if discrepancies arise.

Procedures

1. Responsibility

Each and every adult employed or contracted by the District has a legal duty to promptly report to a child protection social worker when he/she has reason to believe a child (a person under 19 years of age) needs protection, as set out in the following circumstances:

- 1.1. If a child has been or is likely to be physically harmed, sexually abused or exploited.
- 1.2. If a child is demonstrating severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or self-destructive or aggressive behaviour as a result of emotional harm.
- 1.3. If a child is deprived of necessary health care including refusal of consent to treatment.
- 1.4. If a child is deprived of adequate provision and care by parent inability, unwillingness, absence or abandonment.

- 1.5. If a child is absent from home in circumstances that endanger the child's safety or well-being.
2. Report Procedures
 - 2.1. Each and every adult employed or contracted by the District shall follow the reporting procedures outlined in this Administrative Procedure. Failure to report or knowingly make a false report, is a serious offence under law.
3. Parent Contact
 - 3.1. In the course of an investigation, solely conducted by the District employee, contract service provider or volunteer, parents shall be informed/consulted prior to an interview of the student.
4. Cooperation In Investigations
 - 4.1. The District has an expectation that all parties cooperate in working towards ascertaining all facts and relevant information.

Reference: Sections 7, 9, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 65, 79, 85, 177 School Act
Section 13, 14 Child, Family and Community Services Act
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Section 32.2 Health Profession Act
Section 27.1 Teacher Profession Act
Criminal Code of Canada
B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect –For Service Providers, 2007
Responding to Child Welfare Concerns, 2007
Responding to Child Welfare Concerns – Your Role in Knowing When and What to Report
Interagency Protocol for Reporting and Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect
Delegated Aboriginal Child and Family Services Agency Protocol
Criminal Code of Canada
BCTF Code of Ethics

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