

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: JLF
DRAFT to Policy Committee: May 9, 2011 Date to School Board for First Read: May 25, 2011 School Board Second Read/Adoption: June 15, 2011 Policy Committee Review: October 10, 2018 Back to Policy Committee w. Revisions: November 7, 2018 School Board First Read: November 14, 2018 School Board Second Read/Adoption: December 5, 2018	Page 1 of 1

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Any Oyster River Cooperative school employee having reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected shall immediately report the suspicions to the DCYF Central Intake Office by telephone at 800-894-5533 or 603-271-6556. The school district employee will then immediately notify the building principal that a report has been made. The school district employee will complete the district reporting form and return to the Principal

The report should contain the name and address of the child suspected of being abused or neglected, the person responsible for the child's welfare, the specific information indicating neglect/abuse or the nature and extent of the child's injuries (including any evidence of previous injuries), the identity of the person or persons suspected of being responsible for such neglect or abuse, and any other information that might be helpful in establishing neglect or abuse or that may be required by the Department of Health and Human Services. (e.g., possible threat to student safety, school dismissal time.)

Based on information received from the school employee making the referral, the DCYF Central Intake Office determines whether the referral is credible and should be accepted. If accepted, the DCYF Central Intake Office determines the level of risk to the child. If the suspected abuse is likely to occur within 24 hours or if there is imminent danger to the child, the school employee shall contact local law enforcement in addition to reporting to DCYF. DCYF Central Intake Office contacts the appropriate District Office to advise of all high-risk reports. If the DCYF Central Intake Office determines that the child does not appear to be in imminent danger, the referral will be sent to the appropriate District Office for a response within 72 hours.

Immunity from Liability: Anyone participating in good faith in the making of a report is immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. Any such participant has the same immunity with respect to participation in any investigation by the department or judicial proceeding resulting from such report.

The Principal or Administrator of each school shall post a sign in a public area within the school that is readily accessible to students, in the form provided by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth, and Families, that contains instructions on how to report child abuse or neglect, including the phone number for filing reports and information on accessing the Division's website.

The Board recommends all school district employees receive routine training or information on how to identify child abuse and neglect. School District employees do not investigate the suspicion.

Legal References:

- NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(10), Reporting of Suspected Abuse or Neglect
- RSA 169-C:29, Persons Required to Report
- RSA 169-C:30, Nature and Content of Report
- RSA 169-C:31, Immunity from Liability
- RSA 169-C:34, III, Duties of the Department of Health and Human Services