

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REGULATION No. 807
OPERATIONS**

PROTOCOL IN SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

1. OBJECTIVES

- a.) Provide a vehicle for effective and efficient reporting of child abuse and neglect by school personnel.
- b.) Facilitate communication, coordination, and cooperation between school personnel and other community resources on behalf of abused/neglected schoolchildren.

2. DEFINITION

- a.) The Nevada Child Abuse and Neglect Law defines child abuse and neglect as “...the non-accidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 years by a person who is responsible for the child’s welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened thereby.”

3. NOTIFICATION

- a.) NRS (432 B. 220) requires that any teacher, principal, counselor, nurse or other school personnel who has reason to believe child abuse or neglect is occurring must make a report immediately to the appropriate county agency. In the case of suspected physical child abuse or neglect, the report will be made to Nevada State Welfare office. In the case of suspected sexual abuse, assault or molestation, the report will be made to the Carson City Sheriff’s office.

4.

- a) The School personnel who suspects child abuse will:
 - (1) Identify a student with evidence of abuse or neglect.
 - (2) Speak with the child in a non-investigative, non-leading manner to inquire about injuries or disclosures of abuse or neglect.
 - (3) Report their concerns to the school nurse, school counselor, or school psychologist who can assist in making the report. School personnel are responsible to make a verbal report within 24 hours.
 - (4) Make a written report of the suspicion as soon as possible and distribute as indicated on the form.

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b.) The reporting party will:

- (1) Gather information needed for the report.
- (2) Telephone the appropriate agency to make a report.
 - (a) In the case of physical child abuse or neglect, the report will be telephoned to the Carson City Office of Division of Family Services (DCFS).
 - (b) In the case of sexual abuse, assault, or molestation, the report will be telephoned to the Carson City Sheriff's Office.
 - (b1) If the child discloses sexual abuse that is occurring in the home at the present time, the child is in imminent danger and the report should be made to the Detectives Division, who will send a detective to the school to interview the child. The school counselor, nurse or psychologist should remain with the child during the interview. The counselor, nurse or psychologist should also remain with the child while the detective goes to interview the non-offending parent.
 - (b2) If a child discloses sexual abuse that happened several years ago or out of state, the report should be made to the Sheriff's office dispatch. A deputy will come to the school and take a statement from the reporter and from the school counselor, nurse or psychologist.
 - (b3) If a child exhibits behaviors that are commonly accepted to be symptomatic of sexual abuse, school personnel should seek the assistance of appropriate personnel. The nurse, counselor, or psychologist may interview the child or the parent, but even if there is no disclosure of abuse, school personnel are required to report the suspicion. In this case, the nurse or counselor will call dispatch and ask for a deputy to come to the school to take an information sheet rather than a crime report.
- (3) Inform the principal counselor and nurse immediately that a report has been made.
- (4) Call the Supervisor of Student Support Services to inform that a report has been made.
- (5) Give a written report to the Sheriff's office and DCFS as soon as possible. Counselors and nurses should always exchange written reports.

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5. FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION

- a.) The school counselor or nurse will act as a liaison between school agencies and school personnel about what is being done for the child.
- b.) The school counselor, nurse or other appropriate school personnel should be present at any interview with a child by a person from an outside agency. This applies to initial as well as follow-up interviews that occur in the school.
- c.) If it happens that school personnel continue to be concerned that a child is being abused or neglected after a report has been made, this case can be referred to the County Multi-Disciplinary Team by the nurse, counselor, psychologist, or other appropriate personnel.

Adopted: April 15, 1981
Amended: September 22, 1987
Revised: September 8, 2009