



"To Build Knowledge and Skills for Success Today and Tomorrow"

File: JHG*

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

Any teacher or other school employee who suspects that a child under 18 years of age has been neglected or physically abused (including sexual or emotional abuse) by a parent or other person, must report orally or in writing this information to the counselor, principal or superintendent. The counselor, principal or superintendent should immediately report this information to the state's attorney; or the Department of Social Services; or the county sheriff; or the city police.

The administrator's report will contain the following information: name, address, and age of child; name and address of parent or caretaker; nature and extent of injuries or description of neglect; and any other information that might help establish the cause of injuries or condition.

School employees, including administrators, will not contact the child's family or any other persons to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect. It is not the responsibility of the school employees to prove that the child has been abused or neglected, or to determine whether the child is in need of protection, but only to report suspicions of abuse or neglect.

Anyone who participates in making a report in accordance with the law and in good faith is immune from any civil or criminal liability that may otherwise arise from the reporting, or from any resulting judicial proceeding, even if the suspicion is proved to be unfounded.

LEGAL REFS: SDCL 26-8-6
 26-10-10
 26-10-11.1
 26-10-12
 26-10-12.2
 26-10-12.3
 26-10-14

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