

Students

Child Abuse

Any professional person, which includes certified personnel, principals, guidance counselors, school paraprofessionals, coaches of intramural and interscholastic athletics, licensed nurses, psychologists and social workers, pursuant to the performance of services and duties for the school who has reasonable cause to suspect that any child under the age of 18 brought to or coming before him/her has had serious physical injury or injuries other than by accidental means by a parent or other person responsible for his/her care, or is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment, or cruel punishment, or neglect or placed in imminent risk of serious harm, shall report the matter to the Department of Children and Families. The School Principal is to be notified immediately and in turn will contact the appropriate member(s) of the Special Services Department, Waterford Police Department Youth Officer, and the Superintendent of Schools.

An oral report must be made within twelve (12) hours to the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families or his/her representatives by the reporter of the incident.

A written statement by the reporter of the incident must follow within 48 hours. It must be submitted to a Department of Children and Families regional office or directly to the Commissioner at the Central Office. Such report shall contain the names and addresses of the child and his/her parents or other person responsible for his/her care, if known, the age of the child, the nature and the extent of his/her injuries, together with any evidence of previous injury, and any other information which the reporter believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of injury or injuries and protecting the child.

Any person, in good faith, making the above report shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such report.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 17a-101 Protection of children from abuse. Reports required of certain professional persons. When child may be removed from surroundings without court order. (as amended by PA 96-246, PA 00-220, PA 02-106, PA 02-138 and PA 03-168)
 17a-106 Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse/neglect.

Policy adopted: October 16, 2003

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Waterford, Connecticut