



Child Abuse and Neglect	
Policy Number: 6.409	Monitoring Review: Annually
Effective/Revised Date: June 28, 2023	Signature:
Approved by: Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds, Commissioner	

Reporting

All personnel shall be alert for any evidence of child abuse or neglect.¹ If personnel know or have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect, a report shall be filed immediately with the Department of Children's Services (DCS).²

The report shall include to the extent known to the reporter:³

- (1) The name, address, and age of the child;
- (2) The name and address of the parents or persons having custody of the child;
- (3) The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect; and
- (4) Any evidence to the cause or any other information that may relate to the cause or extent of the abuse or neglect

The identity of the person reporting shall remain confidential except when the juvenile court determines otherwise.⁴

Notice that a report was filed, and any other information relevant to the wellbeing of the child, shall be verbally provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) within twenty-four (24) hours of filing if the abuse occurred on school grounds or while the child was under the supervision or care of the school. This notice shall be made in coordination with DCS. Notice shall not be provided if there is reasonable cause to believe that the parent/guardian may be the perpetrator or in any way responsible for abuse.⁵

The Principal/designee shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of abuse and neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all school personnel.⁶

Investigations

School administrators and employees have a duty to cooperate, provide assistance and information in child abuse investigations⁷ including permitting child abuse review teams to conduct interviews while the child is at school; the principal may control the time, place and circumstances of the interview, but may not insist that a

¹ Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-403(a)(1); Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-412; Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-602; Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-605(a)(4)
² Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-403(a)(2)
³ Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-403(b); Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1601(b)
⁴ Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-409(a)(1)
⁵ Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-605(d); Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1601
⁶ TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.08(2)(e)
⁷ Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-611(b)

school employee be present even if the suspected abuser is a school employee or another student. The principal is not in violation of any laws by failing to inform parents that the child is to be interviewed even if the suspected abuser is not a member of the child's household.⁸

⁸ Tenn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 87-101 (June 9, 1987)