

Any Interlocal employee who has reason to know or suspect a child has been injured as a result of physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect or sexual abuse, shall promptly report the matter to the local Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) office or to the local law enforcement agency if the DCF office is not open. Employees may file a report of suspected abuse anonymously to either DCF by phoning 1-800-922-5330 or to local law enforcement officials. The Code for Care of Children also provides civil immunity from prosecution if the report is made in good faith.

The employee making the report will not contact the child's family or any other person to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect.

DCF or Law Enforcement Access to Students at Interlocal

The building administrator shall allow a student to be interviewed by DCF or law enforcement representatives on Interlocal premises to investigate suspected child abuse and shall act as appropriate to facilitate the agency's access to the child and to protect the student's interests during the process. State law grants the investigating agency the authority to determine whether an Interlocal employee may be present while the interview is being conducted, taking into account the child's best interests. If asked to sit in on the interview by the agency representative conducting it, the building administrator or designee thereof shall oblige such request in order to provide comfort to the child throughout the process and to facilitate the investigation.

Cooperation Between Interlocal and Agencies

Administrators shall work with DCF and law enforcement agencies to develop a plan of cooperation for investigating reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. To the extent that safety is not compromised, law enforcement officers investigating complaints of suspected child abuse or neglect on Interlocal property shall not be in uniform.

Reporting Procedure

The employee shall promptly report to the local DCF office or law enforcement if DCF is closed. It is recommended the building administrator also be notified after the report is made.

If the building administrator has been notified, the administrator shall immediately notify the director that the initial report to DCF has been made. If appropriate, the administrator may confer with the Interlocal's social worker, guidance counselor or psychologist. At no time shall the administrator or any other staff member prevent or interfere with the making of a suspected child abuse report.

If available, the following information shall be given by the person making the initial report: name, address and age of the student; name and address of the parents or guardians; nature and extent of injuries or description of neglect or abuse; and any other information that might help establish the cause of the child's condition.

Any personal interview or physical inspection of the child by any Interlocal employee shall be conducted in an appropriate manner with an adult witness present.

State law provides that anyone making a report in good faith and without malice shall be immune from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

Annual Training

Annual training for all school employees on child abuse and neglect reporting requirements shall be provided, and documentation of the training shall be maintained.

Adopted: Interlocal Board #638, Butler County, KS - 1/25/2016; 10/20