

(X) Required

(x) Local

(x) Notice

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN A DOMESTIC SETTING

BOCES school officials, who have reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or maltreatment, must immediately report this to the New York State Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment (Central Register), as required by law. No conditions may be imposed which limit their responsibility to report. A school official is defined as:

- Teacher
- Guidance counselor
- Psychologist
- Nurse
- Administrator
- Any school personnel required to hold a teaching or administrative license or certificate.

The school official shall also report the matter to the Principal.

The report shall be made in a manner established by the Commissioner of Social Services. A written report shall be made within forty-eight hours to the appropriate local child protective service, and to the statewide Central Register.

BOCES employees or school officials shall not contact the child's family or any other person to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or maltreatment. It is not the responsibility of the school official or employee to prove that the child has been abused or maltreated.

Any school official or employee who has cause to suspect that the death of any child is a result of child abuse or maltreatment must report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner.

The law grants immunity to persons who, in good faith, report instances of child abuse from any liability.

School employees shall not be subject to retaliatory action, as defined in state law, as a result of making a report when they reasonably suspect that a child has been abused or maltreated.

The BOCES shall cooperate to the extent possible with authorized child protective services workers in investigations of alleged child abuse.

The BOCES shall maintain an ongoing training program which will address the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment. Attendance at sessions of this training program shall be required of all school officials. Attendance records shall be kept, and notations will be made in personnel files as to the dates of attendance.

Ref: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 USC §1232g, 45 CFR §99.36
 Child Protective Services Act of 1973, Social Services Law §§411 et seq.
 Family Court Act §1012
 Education Law §3209-a

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