



Mitchell School District 17-2 POLICY

Category

Approval

Series 700: Foundations and
Basic Commitments

Adopted	Revised
8/24/87	12/10/01, 6/27/05
Reviewed	
7/13/09, 6/24/13, 6/12/17, 5/24/21	

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

MSD 742

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, will report orally or in writing this information to the building principal or building counselor. The principal or counselor should immediately report this information to the state's attorney; or the department of social services; or the county sheriff; or the city police. If the principal or counselor does not confirm to the teacher or other employee within 24 hours that action has been initiated, the employee will report this information directly to the proper authorities.

The 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 employee 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 his/her 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.

Any personal interview or physical inspection of the child should be conducted in a considerate, professional manner. Information or records concerning reports of suspected abuse or neglect are confidential. The release to persons other than those provided by law is punishable under South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL). Failure to make a report where abuse or neglect is suspected is also punishable as per SDCL".

Copies of this policy will be included in employee handbooks.

LEGAL RES.: SDCL 26-8A-6

26-8A-3; 26-8A-6 through 26-8A-15

12/10/01 revision included report form with policy, changed "superintendent" to "counselor" to reflect actual practice, and renumbered the policy from 730 to 742.

6/27/05 revision deleted specific statements of punishment for violations of law and simply referred reader to SDCL.

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORTED

Documentation of Report Filed

Child's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____

Parents/Guardians _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

School _____ Grade _____

Siblings:

1. _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

2. _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

3. _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

4. _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

Staff Report: _____

Date/Time Reported : _____

To Whom Reported: _____

Pertinent Information: (Example: Extent of injury, description of neglect, reasons for suspicion of abuse or neglect, students comments, others probably aware of abuse, etc.)

Administrator Report:

Date/Time Reported: _____

To What Agency: _____

Person Receiving Report: _____

Administrator's Signature _____

Reminder: This is confidential information and should be made available only to auhorized people and agencies.

Cc: _____ Agency receiving report
_____ Principal's File