

School District of Bonduel

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy

I. Policy Statement

Wisconsin's Child Abuse and Neglect Law has as its basic purpose the protection of the health and welfare of children. The law encourages the reporting of suspected victims in a manner which assures that appropriate protective services will be provided to those children as well as their families. Intervention is directed to protect children from further harm and to promote the well being of the child in his or her home setting whenever possible. By intent of law, we are not turning in parents, but rather, assisting the child.

II. Reporting Procedure

A. ABUSE/NEGLECT

1. Any School District of Bonduel staff member having reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen in the course of professional duties has been abused or neglected shall, as a mandated reporter (Law 48.981 (2)) immediately contact the Shawano County Department of Social Services (DSS) 526-6178 and speak to the Social Worker on intake. If any staff member is uncertain whether a report has already been made, that individual should contact the DSS intake worker to ensure that a report of abuse/neglect is made.

When observing possible child abuse/neglect, it is very helpful to keep a brief written record of incidents for use by school or DSS. When making the report give the following information:

- a) Name of child suspected of being abused/neglected,
- b) Name of school and grade,
- c) Name/address/home phone number of child's parent or caretaker,
- d) Facts and circumstances (observations) forming the suspicion,
- e) Present whereabouts of child,
- f) Any factors contributing to high risk,
- g) Name and number of person reporting,
- h) Consult with DSS intake worker to determine if parents/guardian should be informed of referral.

It is the responsibility of DSS to determine if sufficient information exists for an investigation to occur. If an investigation does occur, DSS will gather information to determine if the child is in need of protection and services. Please provide as much information as possible in your referral.

Repeated suspicions of the same named child should be reported in identical fashion.

If uncertain whether something should be reported, discuss with the DSS intake worker.

Whoever intentionally violates the reporting statute by failing to report as required, may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.

2. After you contact the DSS intake worker, report your referral to the grade appropriate principal. (Notification to grade appropriate principal in itself does not fulfill your legal requirement for reporting.)
3. If the grade appropriate principal is unavailable, report your referral to the school district administrator.
4. If the grade appropriate principal and the school district administrator are not available, report your DSS referral to the grade appropriate guidance counselor.

B. Immediate Danger

1. If a child appears to be in immediate physical danger, report immediately to the Shawano County Sheriff's Office, 526-3200.
2. Contact grade appropriate principal following phone call to the Sheriff's office.
3. If grade appropriate principal is unavailable contact the school district administrator.
4. If the grade appropriate principal and the school district administrator are unavailable, contact the grade appropriate guidance counselor.

III. Follow Up

Section s. 48.981(3)(c)6 provides that, within 60 days after receiving "a report from a person required under sub.(2) to report" the DSS must "inform the reporter what action, if any, was taken to protect the health and welfare of the child...."

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS
OF POSSIBLE ABUSE OR NEGLECT:

NEGLECT

- Frequent poor hygiene/odor
- Inappropriately dressed for weather
- Needs medical/dental care
- Frequent absenteeism
- Constant hunger and/or sneaks food
- Extreme willingness to please
- Arrives early/stays late at school
- Failure to thrive/Developmental delays
- Parent appears consistently unconcerned about child's needs, appearance, or health
- You become aware from others that neglectful conditions exist within the home-

serious lack of supervision
parental absence
inadequate food
alcoholism
chaotic living arrangements

- Parent presents obvious evidence of mental instability, irresponsibility, or incapability

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Bruises/welts on face, neck, chest, back
- Injuries in the shape of an object
- Unexplained burns on palms, soles, back
- Fracture that do not fit story of injury
- Delay in seeking medical help
- Extremes in behavior, very aggressive or withdrawn
- Afraid to go home
- Frightened of other Adults
- Overly Compliant

SEXUAL ABUSE

- Complaint of pain, swelling or itching in genital areas,
- Bruises, bleeding, discharge in genital area,
- Difficulty walking or sitting, frequent urination, pain,
- Venereal Disease
- Refuses to take part in gym or other exercises,
- Poor peer relationships,
- Unusual interest in sex for age,
- Runaway or delinquent