LOGO

*School Name*

Child Abuse Reporting Protocol

In accordance with Pennsylvania State Law, *School Name* requires all faculty[[1]](#footnote-1) members to complete child abuse awareness training for mandated reporters as required by ACT 31 of 2014 and ACT 126 of 2013. Faculty members shall complete this training within six weeks of the beginning of the school term as required by law.

*School Name* employees are instructed to comply with title 23, chapter 63 (Child Protective Services), subchapter B (Provisions and Responsibilities for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse), § 6311(Persons required to report suspected child abuse),(b)-(Basis to report)(see Appendix).

In the event that a “reasonable cause to suspect”[[2]](#footnote-2) cannot be fully ascertained by a faculty member he/she shall request additional input from the principal and/or dean of education. Together they will decide whether enough evidence exists to deem the suspicion as reasonable cause to suspect child abuse.

### Appendix

(1)  A mandated reporter enumerated in subsection (a) shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with section 6313 (relating to reporting procedure), if the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances:

(i)  The mandated reporter comes into contact with the child in the course of employment, occupation and practice of a profession or through a regularly scheduled program, activity or service.

(ii)  The mandated reporter is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child, or is affiliated with an agency, institution, organization, school, regularly established church or religious organization or other entity that is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child.

(iii)  A person makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable child is the victim of child abuse.

(iv)  An individual 14 years of age or older makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that the individual has committed child abuse.

(2)  Nothing in this section shall require a child to come before the mandated reporter in order for the mandated reporter to make a report of suspected child abuse.

(3)  Nothing in this section shall require the mandated reporter to identify the person responsible for the child abuse to make a report of suspected child abuse.

**(c)  Staff members of institutions, etc.--**Whenever a person is required to report under subsection (b) in the capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility or agency, that person shall report immediately in accordance with section 6313 and shall immediately thereafter notify the person in charge of the institution, school, facility or agency or the designated agent of the person in charge. Upon notification, the person in charge or the designated agent, if any, shall facilitate the cooperation of the institution, school, facility or agency with the investigation of the report. Any intimidation, retaliation or obstruction in the investigation of the report is subject to the provisions of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4958 (relating to intimidation, retaliation or obstruction in child abuse cases). This chapter does not require more than one report from any such institution, school, facility or agency.

1. An individual who is employed by a school or who provides a program, activity or service sponsored by a school.  The term does not apply to administrative or other support personnel unless the administrative or other support personnel have direct contact with children.

    23 Pa. C.S. §6303 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Pennsylvania General Assembly (2017). Title 23, Chapter 63, Subchapter B*,* § 6311*.* Retrieved from http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/LEGIS/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=23&div=00.&chpt=063.&CFID=227448616&CFTOKEN=85797905 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)