

Contacts and Phone Numbers

How do I Report Suspected Child Abuse?

Inform your administrator or his/her designee of your concerns.

Immediately report family cases, such as those which involve parents or other relatives, to your county's Child Protective Services.

Immediately report cases which involve a 3rd party, such as a staff member or other students, to your local law enforcement agency.

NOTE: You, the individual who suspects possible abuse, are legally responsible for ensuring that your suspicions are reported to the designated agencies immediately. This legal responsibility is not satisfied by merely reporting your suspicion to other school personnel.

Both a verbal and a written report are required. Please see a standard form for a written report in "Preventing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect" available on: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/pichildabuse.htm>

After a Report is Made*

A member of the Child Protective Services and/or local law enforcement agency will investigate the case, notify the family that a report has been filed, and check the child's condition. If the child appears to be in immediate danger, he/she is put into temporary protective custody.

In severe cases, the court determines whether temporary or permanent separation from the family is necessary.

Treatment for the child and/or family may be recommended or mandated.

***For more information on reporting and follow up procedures, contact your county's Child Protective Services.**

School District Student Assistance Team:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

County Department of Social Services

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

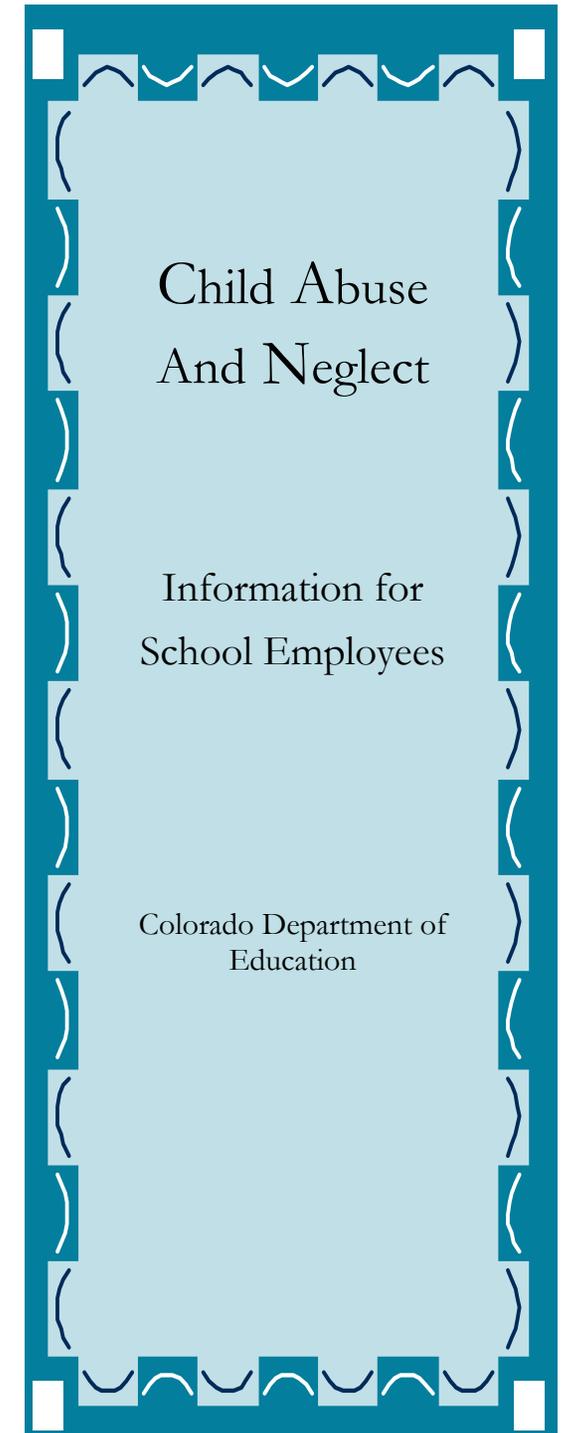
Local Law Enforcement Agency

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

For more information on Child Abuse/Neglect, contact:

Cindy Wakefield
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Denver, CO 80203
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What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is defined as non-accidental physical/sexual or emotional injury caused by the acts or omissions of an adult or another child.

Physical abuse: non-accidental physical injury to a child.
 Physical neglect: failure on the part of the child’s caretaker to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or supervision.
 Emotional maltreatment: belittling and rejecting the child-not providing a positive emotional atmosphere.
 Sexual abuse: sexual exploitation of a child done for the sexual gratification of the offender or another person.

Who is required to Report Child Abuse?

The state of Colorado specifically names school officials and employees as persons required by Article 10 of the Children’s Code to immediately report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect and circumstances which might reasonably result in abuse or neglect. Any person who willfully violates these provisions can be prosecuted.

Any school officials or employees reporting in good faith are immune from liability, both civil and criminal, according to Section 19-10-110 of the Children’s Code.

How do I Respond to a Child Who Discloses?

Do:

- ◆ Find a private place to listen to the student.
- ◆ Reassure the student that he/she has done the right thing by reporting.
- ◆ Rephrase important thoughts using the student’s vocabulary.
- ◆ Let the student know you must report to someone who can help him/her.
- ◆ Write down concrete information, including names, dates, and times of incident and disclosure.
- ◆ Immediately report the incident to local Child Protective Services or law enforcement.
- ◆ Seek out your own support system.

Don’t:

- ◆ Promise confidentiality.
- ◆ Panic or express shock.
- ◆ Ask leading or suggestive questions.
- ◆ Make negative comments about perpetrator.
- ◆ Disclose information indiscriminately.

How Do I Recognize Possible Child Abuse? (Repeated or combination of indicators should alert educators to the possibility of abuse or neglect.)

	Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Physical Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unexplained bruises (in various stages of healing), welts, human bite marks, bald spots ◆ Unexplained burns, especially cigarette burns or immersion burns (glove like) ◆ Unexplained fractures, lacerations or abrasions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self destructive ▪ Withdrawn and aggressive-behavioral extremes ▪ Uncomfortable with physical contact ▪ Arrives at school early or stays late as if afraid to be at home ▪ Chronically runs away (adolescents) ▪ Complains of soreness or moves uncomfortably ▪ Wears clothing inappropriate to weather, to cover body
Physical Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Abandonment ◆ Unattended medical needs ◆ Consistent lack of supervision ◆ Consistent hunger, inappropriate dress, poor hygiene ◆ Lice, distended stomach, emaciated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regularly displays fatigue or listlessness, falls asleep in class ▪ Steals food, begs from classmates ▪ Reports that no caretaker is at home ▪ Frequently absent or tardy ▪ Self destructive ▪ School dropout or truancy
Sexual Abuse*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Torn, stained or bloody underclothing ◆ Pain or itching in genital area ◆ Difficulty walking or sitting ◆ Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia ◆ Sexually transmitted disease ◆ Frequent urinary or yeast infections <p>* Often there are no visible indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Withdrawal, chronic depression ▪ Excessive seductiveness ▪ Role reversal, overly concerned for siblings ▪ Poor self esteem, self devaluation, lack of confidence ▪ Eating disorders or sudden weight changes ▪ Suicide attempts or other self destructive behavior ▪ Hysteria, lack of emotional control ▪ Chronically runs away ▪ Inappropriate sex play or premature understanding of sex ▪ Threatened by physical contact, closeness
Emotional Maltreatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Speech disorders ◆ Delayed physical development ◆ Substance abuse ◆ Ulcers, asthma, severe allergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habit disorders (sucking, rocking) ▪ Antisocial, destructive ▪ Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, inhibition of play) ▪ Passive and aggressive behavioral extremes ▪ Delinquent behavior (especially adolescents) ▪ Developmentally delayed

Adapted from American Association for Protecting Children, “Guidelines for Schools,” American Humane Association, Denver, CO., reproduced with permission.