

## 4390 Child Abuse

The ~~Board~~ District recognizes that because of their sustained contact with school-age children, ~~teachers and other school~~ employees are in a position to help identify and report suspected child abuse and neglect.

In compliance with the Child Protective Services Act, W.S. §14-3-201 through 215, ~~Wyoming Statutes, it will be the policy of the Campbell County School~~ the District ~~to~~ shall report abuse or neglect whenever any person knows or has reasonable cause to believe or suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, or observes any child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect.

~~The statute requires that~~ If a person reporting child abuse or neglect is ~~a member of the staff of the school, he or she is~~ they are to notify the principal, or designee, as soon as possible, who is thereupon also responsible to make the report or cause the report to be made. ~~Because of this requirement,~~ Any teacher or employee having any such knowledge is to make an initial report to the ~~student's school~~ principal, or designee, ~~of the school the child attends~~. The principal, or designee, will then notify the Superintendent, or designee.

~~The report by a teacher or~~ An employee's report to the principal does not relieve that individual of their obligation to report on ~~his or her~~ their own behalf unless a report has already been made or will be made. The Wyoming Statutes are mandatory and absolutely require that a report be made. Failure to report ~~would violate this provision of the~~ is a violation of Wyoming law.

Reports are required to be given to the Department of Family Services (DFS) or a local law enforcement agency. The reports can be submitted in written form or by phone (doing both is recommended). ~~Wyoming law requires that a written report from DFS be submitted back to the reporting party confirming or not confirming the facts reported; however, a written report may be dispensed with for good cause.~~

School employees will not contact the child's family or other person to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect. It is not the responsibility of the school employee to prove a child has been abused or neglected, or to determine whether the child is in need of protection.

"Abuse" means inflicting or causing physical or mental injury, harm or imminent danger to the physical or mental health or welfare of the child other than by accidental means, including abandonment, ~~unless the abandonment is a relinquishment under W.S. § 14-11-101 through 109.~~ excessive or unreasonable corporal punishment, malnutrition or substantial risk thereof by reason of intentional or unintentional neglect, and the commission or allowing the commission of a sexual offense against a child as defined by law.

"Neglect" means a failure or refusal by those responsible for the child's welfare to provide adequate care, maintenance, supervision, education or medical, surgical or any other care necessary for the child's wellbeing. ~~"Neglect" for purposes of "education" as used in this paragraph includes willful absenteeism as defined in W.S. 21-4-101(a)(vii).~~

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LEGAL REFERENCE(S): State Statute 14-3-201 through 215

CROSS REFERENCE(S): 4390-R

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION:

