

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 71 (COMOX VALLEY)

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY	6014R1
Date	Dec. 15, 2009
Revision	1

BOARD REGULATION

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

1. Responsibility

Each and every adult employed or contracted by the Board of Education has a **legal duty** to promptly report to a child protection social worker when he/she has reason to believe a child (a person under 19 years of age) needs protection, as set out in the following circumstances:

- if a child has been or is likely to be physically harmed, sexually abused or exploited
- if a child is demonstrating severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or self-destructive or aggressive behaviour as a result of emotional harm
- if a child is deprived of necessary health care including refusal of consent to treatment
- if a child is deprived of adequate provision and care by parent inability, unwillingness, absence or abandonment, or
- if a child is absent from home in circumstances that endanger the child's safety or well-being.

2. Report Procedures

Each and every adult employed or contracted by the Board of Education shall follow the reporting procedures outlined in this regulation. Failure to report, or to knowingly make a false report, is a serious offence under law.

3. Parent Contact

In the course of an investigation solely conducted by the school district, of an employee, a contract service provider or volunteer, parents shall be informed or consulted prior to an interview of the student.

4. Cooperation in Investigations

The board has an expectation that all parties cooperate in working towards ascertaining all facts and relevant information.

Guidelines for School Personnel: Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect

The legal duty to report is the responsibility of each individual. Any person, including school employees and police officers, with reason to believe that a child needs protection has a duty to report directly to a child protection social worker.

Informing another person e.g. a colleague or a supervisor, does not discharge the legal duty to report directly to a child protection social worker.

Where two or more persons each have reason to believe a child needs protection, it is acceptable for them to report by way of a joint conference call to a child protection social worker.

Reports must be made immediately. Failure to report is a serious offence under law.

	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3	SCENARIO 4
	Alleged Child Abuse/Neglect by a Parent, Caregiver, Family, Friend or Stranger	Alleged Child Abuse/Neglect by a School Employee, Contracted Service Provider or Volunteer	Alleged Abusive Behaviour at School by a Student Under Age 12	Alleged Abusive Behaviour at School by a Student 12 Years of Age and Over (Including a Young Offender)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report allegations to a child protection social worker. Call police if student is in immediate danger. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report allegations to a child protection social worker. Call police if the student is in immediate danger. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify the school principal. Call police if student is in immediate danger. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify the school principal. Call police if student is in immediate danger.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify the principal that a report was made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify principal, supervisor and/or superintendent of schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School assesses whether or not there is reason to believe a student is in need of protection. Notify the child protection social worker if there is reason to believe a child is in need of protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School assesses whether or not there is reason to believe a student is in need of protection. Notify the child protection social worker if there is reason to believe a child is in need of protection.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School personnel DO NOT contact parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School personnel DO NOT contact parents if a report is made to a child protection social worker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School personnel DO NOT contact parents if a report is made to a child protection social worker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School personnel DO NOT contact parents if a report is made to a child protection social worker. If a student 12 years of age or over, or young offender is alleged to have committed what may be a criminal offence at school, administration, at their discretion, should contact the RCMP. Notify the police and youth probation officer of a breach of a young offender's probation order or abusive behaviour that may constitute a breach.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate with child protection social worker / police during investigation. Provide information requested by child protection social worker / police. Child protection social worker MUST report back to you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent, child protection social worker and police collaborate on initial response and parental contact. Coordinated investigations are conducted. Provide information requested by child protection social worker, police or superintendent of schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate with child protection social worker or police during investigation. Provide information requested by child protection social worker, police and/or principal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate with child protection social worker or police during investigation. Provide information requested by child protection social worker, police and/or principal.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to the student and follow-up response as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to the student and follow-up response as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to the student and follow-up response as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to the student and follow-up response as needed.