

Mandatory Reporting

345.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines consistent with mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect.

345.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Child abuse - Any offense or attempted offense involving violence or neglect with a child victim when committed by a person responsible for the child's care or any other act that would mandate notification to a social service agency or law enforcement (CRS § 19-3-304; CRS § 19-1-103). Child abuse is not just limited to suspicions of a child being physically abused by a parent or adult at home. Child abuse also includes suspicions of inappropriate sexual conduct between students and adult school employees, non-consensual sexual conduct between students, sexual conduct involving a student under 15 and another student with a four-year age difference (i.e. sexual conduct between 14 and 18 year old), and inappropriate sexual conduct between students with developmental disabilities.

Clergy Member - A priest, rabbi, duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister of a church, member of a religious order, or recognized leader of any religious body.

Mandatory Reporter - Persons required to report child abuse or neglect.

345.2 POLICY

The Louisville Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of juveniles who are at risk or in situations which can be harmful to their well-being.

345.3 REPORTING

Mandatory reporters include:

- Any child health associate
- Registered nurse or licensed practical nurse
- Public or private school official or employee
- Social worker or worker in any facility or agency that is licensed or certified
- Mental health professionals
- Licensed professional counselors
- Licensed marriage and family therapists
- Registered psychotherapists
- Clergy member

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- Registered dietitian
- State department of human services worker
- Juvenile parole and probation officers
- Child and family investigators
- Private and public athletic program personnel, including directors, coaches, and assistant coaches
- Commercial film and photographic print processors

Mandatory reporters who have reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately upon receiving such information report or cause a report to be made of such fact to the county department, the local law enforcement agency, or through the state child abuse reporting hotline system and shall be followed promptly by a written report prepared by those persons required to report.

345.3.1 REPORTING INFORMATION

Reports shall include, when possible:

- The involved child's
 - Name
 - Address
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Race
- The name and address of the person responsible for the suspected abuse or neglect,
- The nature and extent of the child's injuries,
- Any evidence of previous cases of known or suspected abuse or neglect of the child or the child's siblings,
 - Names and addresses of the suspected persons responsible,
- The family composition,
- The source of the report including the source's
 - Name
 - Address
 - Occupation
- Any action taken by the reporting source,
- Any additional information that may be helpful in furthering the purpose of the report.

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The reporting requirement shall not apply if the person who is otherwise required to report does not learn of the suspected abuse or neglect until after the alleged victim of the suspected abuse or neglect is eighteen years of age or older; and have reasonable cause to know or suspect that the perpetrator of the suspected abuse or neglect has not subjected any other child currently under eighteen years of age to abuse or neglect or to circumstances or conditions that would likely result in abuse or neglect.

345.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

Officers shall investigate all mandatory reports and document their findings in a written report. Officers are to follow the investigation procedure outlined in the Child Abuse policy.

Members of the Louisville Police Department are required to investigate individuals who fail to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

