

## **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING**

### Child Abuse Prevention

The Monterey County Board of Education (County Board) expects the Monterey County Superintendent of Schools to train Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) staff and educate students about the dangers of child abuse so that they will acquire the skills and techniques needed to identify unsafe situations and to react appropriately and promptly.

MCOE's instructional program shall include age-appropriate and culturally sensitive child abuse prevention curriculum. This curriculum shall explain students' right to live free of abuse, inform them of available support resources, and teach them how to obtain help and disclose incidents of abuse. The curriculum also shall include training in self-protection techniques.

*(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)*

Community resources shall be incorporated into MCOE's child abuse prevention programs to the extent feasible. These community resources should be used to provide parents/guardians with instruction in parenting skills and child abuse prevention.

*(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*

### Child Abuse Reporting

The County Board recognizes that child abuse has severe consequences and that MCOE has a responsibility to protect students by facilitating the prompt reporting of known and suspected incidents of child abuse. Administrative Regulation 5141.4 outlines the procedures for the identification and reporting of such incidents in accordance with law.

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

Employees who are mandated reporters, as defined by law and administrative regulation, are obligated to report all known or suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. Mandated reporters shall not investigate any suspected incidents but rather shall cooperate with agencies responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect.

MCOE shall provide training regarding the reporting duties of mandated reporters. Education Code 44691 states that a county office of education shall provide annual training using the online training module provided by the State Department of Social Services to all mandated reporters as defined in Penal Code 11165.7. If MCOE does not

use the State Department of Social Services online training module, MCOE shall report to the California Department of Education the training being used in its place. [Education Code 44691; Penal Code 11165.7]

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

- 32280-32288 Comprehensive school safety plans*
- 33308.1 Guidelines on procedure for filing child abuse complaints*
- 44690-44691 Staff development in the detection of child abuse and neglect*
- 44807 Duty concerning conduct of students*
- 48906 Notification when student released to peace officer*
- 48987 Dissemination of reporting guidelines to parents*
- 49001 Prohibition of corporal punishment*
- 51220.5 Parenting skills education*

PENAL CODE

- 152.3 Duty to report murder, rape, or lewd or lascivious act*
- 273a Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of child; endangering life or health*
- 288 Definition of lewd or lascivious act requiring reporting*
- 11164-11174.4 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

- 15630-15637 Dependent adult abuse reporting*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 4650 Filing complaints with CDE, special education students*

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