

## Child Abuse/Neglect

<p><b>Notification</b></p>	<p>Everyone in Tennessee is a mandated reporter under state law. Any person with reasonable cause to believe a child is being abused or neglected must, under the law, immediately report to the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services or to local law enforcement. The reporter can remain anonymous.</p> <p>More information can be found at <a href="#">Reporting Abuse</a>.</p> <p>Failure to report abuse is a violation of the law and a Class A misdemeanor, carrying a sentence of up to three months imprisonment, a fine or both. Those who report and “act in good faith” are immune from any civil or criminal charges which may result. The reporter has the right to remain confidential and anonymous.</p> <p>More information can be found at <a href="#">Reporting Abuse</a>:</p>
<p><b>Confidentiality</b></p>	<p>The privacy of the student, family and teacher and the confidential nature of the investigation being conducted by the designated authorities shall be protected. This includes, to the extent possible, establishing the following rules for the conducting of investigations within the school:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The handling of all paperwork related to investigations of child abuse or neglect is highly confidential material, which is accessible only to limited and designated individuals. In particular, such paperwork shall never be accessible to student or volunteer office workers.</li> <li>2. The providing of a designated contact(s) within the school through whom the investigating authorities may schedule interviews with students who are suspected of being abused or neglected. Under no circumstances should a student or volunteer office worker be privy to confidential information between investigating authorities and the school.</li> </ol>

	<p>3. The providing of a private setting in which a confidential interview(s) may be conducted.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services or other official agency has the authority to conduct the investigation and may conduct the interview(s) without the presence of school staff, if so desired.</p>
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