

The policy regarding child abuse is necessary primarily due to the Child Study Center and other specific programs oriented particularly for children that are offered through the College on either a continuous basis or short-term basis.

Any education personnel, including school personnel, and personnel of institutions of higher education, and any childcare personnel, who have reasonable cause to believe a child, known to them in their professional or official capacity, may be an abused or neglected child are required by law to immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). A report of suspected child abuse or neglect must be made orally to the DCFS by calling the statewide 24-hour child abuse hotline number (1-800-252-2873). The oral report must be confirmed in writing to the appropriate Child Protective Service Unit within 48 hours. College personnel should, but are not required to inform the college president that they have reported a suspected abuse or neglect case to the DCFS.

An “abused child” is one whose parent, or immediate family member, or other person responsible for the child’s welfare or any individual residing in the same home, or a paramour of the child’s parent:

- a. Inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury, by other than accidental means, which causes death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
- b. Creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
- c. Commits or allows to be committed any sex offense against such child, as such sex offenses are defined in the Criminal Code of 2012 or in the Wrongs to Children Act, and extending those definitions of sex offenses to include children under 18 years of age;
- d. Commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of torture upon such child;
- e. Inflicts excessive corporal punishment or inflicts corporal punishment upon a with whom the person is working in his or her professional capacity;
- f. Commits or allows to be committed the offense of female genital mutilation, as defined in Section 12-34 of the Criminal Code of 2012, against the child;
- g. Causes to be sold, transferred, distributed, or given to such child under 18 years of age, a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act in violation of Article IV of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act or in violation of the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, except for controlled substances that are prescribed in accordance with Article III of the Illinois Controlled

Substances Act and are dispensed to such child in a manner that substantially complies with the prescription; or

- h. Commits or allows to be committed the offense of involuntary servitude, involuntary sexual servitude of a minor, or trafficking in persons as defined in Section 10-9 of the Criminal Code of 2012 against the child.

A “neglected child” is one who is not receiving the proper or necessary care and support, such as nourishment, medical care, education as required by law, clothing and shelter, or who is abandoned. A child shall not be considered neglected for the sole reason that the child has been relinquished in accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. A child may not be considered abused or neglected solely because a parent or guardian, in good faith, depends upon spiritual prayer alone for the treatment of a disease. A child shall not be considered neglected or abused solely because the child is not attending school in accordance with the requirements of Article 26 of The School Code, as amended.

When making a report to the DCFS, the following information is required, if known:

1. The name and address of the child, parents, or other persons having custody.
2. The child’s age, sex and race.
3. The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect.
4. Any evidence of previous injuries or disabilities.
5. The names of persons apparently responsible for the abuse or neglect.
6. The family’s composition, including the names, ages, sexes and races of other children.
7. The reporter’s name, occupation, and a place where he/she may be reached.
8. The actions taken by the reporter.
9. Any other information the reporter believes may be helpful.

Any person participating in good faith in the making of a report of suspected child abuse or neglect shall have immunity from any liability, civil, criminal, or that otherwise might result by reason of such actions. The name of the reporter will be kept confidential. Any person who knowingly and willfully fails to report a case of suspected abuse or neglect to the DCFS is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor for a first violation and a class 4 felony for a second or subsequent violation. Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the DCFS is guilty of disorderly conduct, which is a class 4 felony.

Adopted:

Amended: December 3, 2019

Legal Ref: