

**Child Abuse and  
Maltreatment  
Mandated Reporters  
2021-2022**

**F. CONNELL**

**DESIGNATED LIAISON**

# ***Why the mandates?***



***Who am I?***

***What do we have in common?***

# Who Calls the SCR? Why?

All pedagogical and non-pedagogical school personnel are mandated reporters.  
*(Section I, A, 1)*

All mandated reporters must personally make the call the State Central Register whenever they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected. *(Section I, A, 1, a)*

The reporter is not required to possess certainty or to interview the child.  
*(Section I, A, 1, a)*

The mandated reporter number is:  
1(800) 635-1522

Mandated reporters may consult with the principal/designee when they have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse and direct knowledge that a report has already been made to the SCR by another mandated reporter in the school. (*Section I, A, 4*)

The principal/designee must confirm whether another report has been made, on the same allegations, by providing the “Call I.D.” number to the mandated reporter. (*Section I, A, 4*)

# Highlights of Chancellor's Regulation A-750

If you have reasonable cause to suspect child maltreatment:

**Mandated Reporters must  
immediately call State Central Register (SCR)  
1(800) 635-1522**



**Obtain the "Call I.D. Number" from the SCR**



**Notify the Principal or Designee  
of "Call I.D. Number" immediately upon filing the  
report to the SCR**

**If the principal/designee does not provide the mandated reporter with the “Call I.D.” number by the end of the school day, the mandated reporter must immediately call in the report to SCR.**  
*(Section I, A, 4)*

**The principal/designee must file a DOE OORS report child abuse report within 24 hours. The “Call ID” number obtained from the state shall be entered in the OORS report.** *(Section I, A, 2 & VII)*

**DOE officials may not take any retaliatory personnel action against a reporter that filed a report in good faith.** *(Section III, C)*

If a SCR operator declines to accept a report, you may request that an SCR supervisor review your report. *(Section I, C, 1)*

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Any breach of confidentiality must be reported to the DOE's Office of Legal Services. *(Section I, A, 7)*

# Social Service Law 413

The intent of this law is to clarify that the mandated reporter is personally responsible for making a report themselves or by being included as part of a report that the institution in which they work makes to the hotline.

A school official as a mandated reporter cannot claim that their only responsibility is to tell an administrator about the problem.



# INDICATORS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Unexplained Bruises and welts
  - on face, lips, mouth, neck, wrists or ankles, on torso, back, buttock, thighs, in shape of article (e.g. belt, cord)
  - injuries to both eyes/cheeks (accidents usually injure only one side) or clustered, forming patterns
  - in various stages of healing
  - regularly appearing after absence, weekend, vacation
- Unexplained Burns
  - cigarette, especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks
  - immersion burns (sock like), rope burns on neck, arms, legs or torso
- Unexplained fractures
  - to the skull, nose, facial structure

# Revised Chancellor's Regulation

## A-750

### ■ EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT

- Child's unexplained absences are not the result of the child's desire to truant
- Parent fails to ensure his/her child's prompt and regular attendance in school or keeps the child out for impermissible reasons
- Reasonable cause to suspect educational impairment/harm to the child or imminent danger of impairment/harm

# When Talking to the Child, DO

- Find a private place to talk with the child.
- Sit next to the child, not across a table or desk.
- Use language the child understands; ask the child to clarify words you don't understand.
- Express your belief that the child is telling you the truth.
- Reassure the child that it is not his/her fault, and that he/she is not bad and did nothing to deserve this.
- Determine the child's immediate need for safety.
- Let the child know you will do your best to protect and support him/her.
- Tell the child what you will do, and who will be involved in the process.

- When physical signs are present – bruises, abrasions, etc. – limit questions to those relevant to determining if the physical signs seen could be abuse.
- What happened?
- Where?
- When?
- Who?
- As soon as there is enough information to support a suspicion of child abuse/maltreatment, do not question the child further. Additional **questioning may interfere with forensic interview** conducted later by the investigative team. (ACS, NYPD, etc).
- Photograph may be taken by the nurse and designated liaison using a school owned device. If the child does not want to be photographed we do not take the pictures.

# When Talking to the Child, DON'T

- Disparage or criticize the child's choice of words or language.
- Suggest answers to the child.
- Probe or press for answers the child is unwilling to give.
- Display shock or disapproval of parent (s), child, or situation.
- Talk to the child with a group of interviewers.
- Make promises to the child, about "not telling" nor about how the situation will work out.

## ■ DO NOT ....

- Examine or search for physical evidence (only medical staff is allowed to examine a child in a medical emergency).
- Act as a therapist, a detective or child protective investigator. Your role is to listen, accept and support the child.
- The only question that you should ask are those questions necessary to make the report to SCR and to complete the written report (Form LDSS 2221A).
- Ask leading questions or press for answers that the student is not comfortable providing.
- Allow the student to feel “in trouble” or “at fault” for the abuse.
- Criticize or change the student’s choice of words or language.
- Display shock, anger, disgust or disapproval of the parents, the student, or the situation. You may feel these things, but it is unlikely to be helpful to the student to share these feelings.

# Legal Protections for Mandated Reporters

- **Immunity:** When a report is made in good faith, the reporter is immune from civil or criminal liability. Furthermore, Mandated Reporters' good faith is presumed.
- **Confidentiality:** Child Protective Services is required to maintain confidentiality about the source of reports, i.e., they may not release identifying information about the source of the report to the subjects of the report (unless they have the reporter's written permission).

# Consequences For Failure to Report

- **Criminal Sanction:** It is Class A misdemeanor for a mandated reporter to willfully fail to report a case of suspected child abuse or maltreatment.
- **Civil Sanction:** A mandated reporter who knowingly and willfully fails to make a report of suspected child abuse or maltreatment is civilly liable for damages caused by such failure.