

No. 806-AR

NORTHERN LEHIGH  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE  
REGULATIONS

## PROTOCOL FOR REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE OR STUDENT ABUSE

### Requirements

Act 151 or 1994, in efforts to protect children from abuse, to insure their healthy growth and development, and whenever possible, to preserve and stabilize the family **requires** that professional employees who come into contact with children **shall report** or cause a report to be made ... **when they have reasonable cause to suspect** ... that child coming before them in their professional or official capacity is an **abused child** or an **abused student**.

### Child Abuse Definition

Serious physical or mental injury which is not explained by the available medical history as being accidental; sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or serious physical neglect of a child under 18 years of age if the injury, abuse, or neglect has been caused by the acts or omissions of the child's parents or by a person responsible for the child's welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child's parent.

### Student Abuse Definition

Student abuse is an act or acts by a school employee against a student less than 18 years old that causes serious bodily injury or involves sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

The act **requires** school employees to **immediately** contact the appropriate school administrator when they have **reasonable cause to suspect** that a student is a victim of bodily injury or sexual abuse or exploitation by another school employee. School employees **must report** suspected abuse based on their professional or other training experience rather than upon information received from another source.

### Procedure for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

When child abuse is suspected, reports are to be made to the school nurse, or guidance counselor, or the building principal, or another school administrator. An immediate meeting of the school nurse, principal, guidance counselor, and reporting staff member, and/or any other involved staff, will be held. A meeting should not be postponed because of any unavailable persons, but should be conducted by those available. If **any** member of the meeting **"has reasonable cause to suspect"** that abuse has occurred, then the Report of Suspected Child Abuse form will be completed and the school nurse or administrator will contact by telephone the appropriate County Children and Youth Services and the Pennsylvania Childline (800-932-0313). The completed form (#CY 47) will be sent by the principal to appropriate County Children and

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Youth Child Protective Services Unit. The principal will notify the Superintendent of Schools that a report has been made.

*Procedure for Reporting Suspected Student Abuse*

In the event that a school employee is **suspected** of student abuse, then a report must be made to a school principal or the Superintendent who **must** then report to police, the district attorney, and local Children and Youth Services.

In the event that a school administrator is suspected of student abuse, then a report must be made to the police and to the county district attorney.

*Discretion*

School officials have **no discretionary power in screening** child abuse or student abuse cases brought to their attention by staff of those organizations. As mandated reporters, they **must report suspected abuse immediately** by telephone and **in writing** within 48 hours after the report.

Revised: September 3, 1999