

Los Angeles Unified School District

Breaking the Silence Child Abuse Awareness Training

This training is about recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse. It is to be used in collaboration with and as a supplement to state, federal and District policies.



Related LAUSD Policies

- MEM-4207.5 Administrator Certification Form
- BUL-1347.2 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures
- BUL-3357.1 Employee-to-Student Sexual Abuse and Related Discipline Policy
- BUL-3349.0 Sexual Harassment Policy (Student-to-Student, Adultto-Student, and Student-to-Adult)
- Child Abuse Awareness Training, http://caat.lausd.net
- BUL 4748.0 Ethics Policies
- BUL 5688.0 Social Media Policy for Employees and Associated Persons
- BUL 5167.0 Code of Conduct with Students

Child abuse statistics

- 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls are sexually abused by age 18
- Less than 10% of sexual molestation is reported
- 80% of perpetrators are married
- 90% of molesters are male relatives or trusted friends of the family
- 93% of molesters are religious
- 97% of molesters are heterosexual men, regardless of the sex of their target
- Serial molesters have an average of 350 victims
- Children are more likely to be abused in foster placement than in their own homes

Child abuse



- Physical Abuse can be external or internal and includes injuries such as a bruise, welt, burn, or cut inflicted on a child by other than accidental means by another person.
- Neglect is the failure to provide adequate care or supervision.
- Willful Cruelty or Unjustifiable Punishment is any situation where any person willfully causes, inflicts or permits unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or permits the child to be placed in a situation in which the child's person or health is endangered.
- Mental Suffering, Emotional Abuse is willful harm that has been inflicted upon a child and endangers his or her emotional well-being.

Child abuse

- **Sexual Assault** includes rape, statutory rape, rape in concert, incest, sodomy, lewd or lascivious acts upon a child, oral copulation, penetration of a genital or anal opening, including the use of any object, touching the genitals or intimate parts or the clothing covering them, or child molestation.
- Sexual exploitation includes conduct or encouragement of activities related to pornography depicting minors and promoting prostitution by minors.
- **Lewd and lascivious** behavior is any unlawful and unwelcomed act committed for the purpose of arousing the libido or sexual interest of the individual or the person towards which this action is directed.
- Lewd conduct includes pornography, prostitution, or indecent exposure.
- **Sexual** innuendos may be considered lewd conduct.
- Hazing may constitute physical or sexual abuse.

Reporting guidelines by age

Consensual sexual acts or "lewd and lascivious" conduct involving a minor must be reported in the following circumstances:

- a. The minor is under 14 and the partner age 14 years or over are engaged in consensual sexual intercourse; or
- b. The minor is under 16 and an adult age 18 years or older are engaged in consensual sexual intercourse; or
- c. The minor is 14 or 15 years of age and an adult 10 years older or more are engaged in "lewd and lascivious conduct."

Mandated reporters

All employees who have contact with children or other vulnerable populations in the ordinary course of their work are mandated reporters.

Mandated reporters include:

- School personnel
- Medical personnel
- Law enforcement personnel
- Counselors
- Clergy
- Photography and film developers



District employees are mandated to report any reasonable suspicion even if the suspected offender is a colleague.

- •Telephone report must to made to an authorized Child Protective Agency must be made immediately, or as soon as possible.
- •A written report must be filed within 36 hours of becoming aware of the incident.

Authorized Child Protective Agencies

- Los Angeles Police Department, (213) 486-0530
- Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, (323) 267-4800
- Department of Child and Protective Services, (800) 540-4000
- https://mandreptla.org/ electronic submissions of Child Abuse reports for mandated reporters
- http://schoolsafety.lausd.net links to DCPS
- Los Angeles School Police is NOT a child protective services agency and CANNOT take reports





Legal obligations

- State law provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for mandated reporters who file suspected child abuse reports.
- Failure to comply with this policy may subject an employee to:
 - professional liability, as well as discipline, demotion, dismissal, and the possible suspension or revocation of credentials, and
 - personal civil liability which can result in the cost of defense and subsequent related damages the child incurs, if any, and
 - **criminal liability** of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a maximum of six months, a fine up to \$1,000, or both.

Legal obligations

Under the law, Mandated Reporters must report all forms of suspected child abuse or neglect, which include:

- Sexual abuse
- Physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person,
- Neglect
- The willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child
- Unlawful corporal punishment or injury
- Serious emotional damage

Reasonable suspicion

For purposes of suspected child abuse/neglect reporting, "reasonable suspicion" means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect. "Reasonable suspicion" does not require certainty that child abuse or neglect has occurred nor does it require a specific medical indication of child abuse or neglect; any "reasonable suspicion" is sufficient.

Is there a pattern of behaviors that does not have a plausible explanation?

- Does the child have sexualized behavior or knowledge that is not age-appropriate? (see hand out)
- Do you suspect that there is sexually inappropriate behavior between a child and an adult?
- Reports may be from any source and may be spoken or written.

Reasonable suspicion

Mandated Reporters may ask clarifying questions as part of determining reasonable suspicion. For suspected sexual abuse, Mandated Reporters might consider the following:

- Is there a pattern of behaviors that does not have a plausible explanation?
- Does the child have sexualized behavior or knowledge that is not age-appropriate? (see hand out)
- Do you suspect that there is sexually inappropriate behavior between a child and an adult?
- Reports may be from any source and may be spoken or written.

Clarify not Investigate

You May Clarify to determine whether reportable

abuse has occurred:

- Tell me about your drawing.
- Tell me about these bruises.
- Tell me what happened.





Do not Investigate

DO NOT corroborate the allegations with witnesses or the accused.

DO NOT ask children to remove or lift clothing to show you marks.

DO NOT ask leading questions

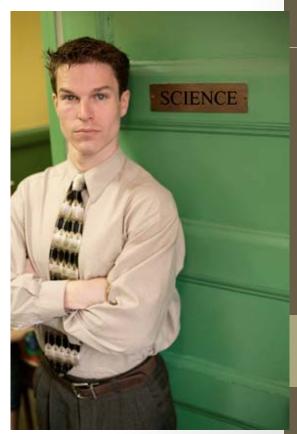
- Did your daddy do this to you?
- Where else did he touch you?
- Did anyone tell you to keep this a secret?



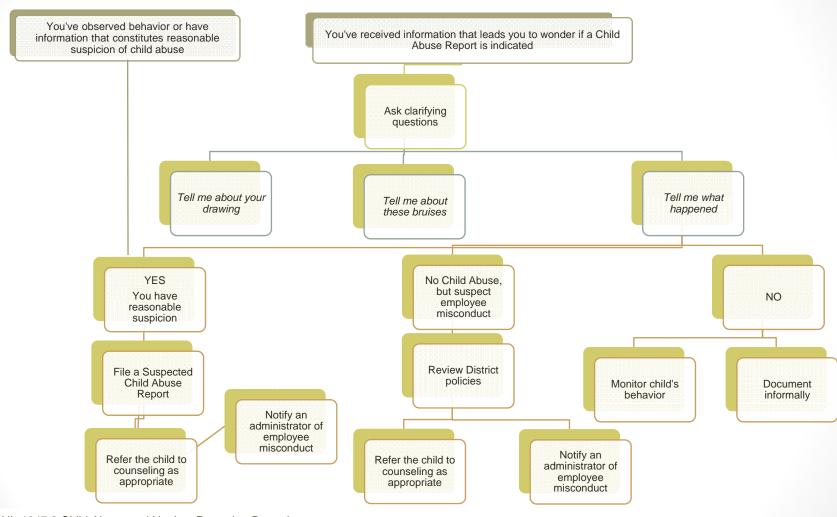
What if the accused perpetrator is a District employee?

 Mandated Reporters must file the suspected Child Abuse Report if they have reasonable suspicion of abuse, regardless of who the perpetrator is.

- The mandated reporter must always advise the employee's supervisor of the suspected inappropriate conduct to ensure the safety of the children.
- The accused may be relocated during the investigation.
- The District will conduct its own investigation and cooperate with the investigation of Child Protective Services.



Decision Making Tree when evaluating what to do next...



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Professional conduct

Professional behavior is a priority
 Consider how behavior can be
 [mis]perceived. Be sure that your
 behavior is beyond reproach at all
 times.



Maintain appropriate relationships

While the District encourages the cultivation of positive relationships with students, employees are reminded that we expect them to use good judgment and are cautioned to avoid any possible or perceived breach of responsible, ethical behavior.

Professional conduct

Be a role model

Your responsibility as a professional is to model and teach appropriate boundaries with students and colleagues.

Be conscious of physical contact or touching

Appropriate touch is determined by your job setting and duties. Nurses, preschool teachers, and middle school teachers, for example, have different guidelines for appropriate touch. You are responsible for guarding against possible misunderstandings.

Recommended ways to support children

- Protect by maintaining structure, stability and consistency
- Connect through interaction, activities and resources
- Model caring, compassion and empathy
- Teach students to use positive coping strategies

Existing curriculum and resources to support students

- Second Step Curriculum and Training: a classroom based program that teaches social and emotional skills for violence prevention. It is organized by grade level, teaches children to practice empathy, problem-solving skills, risk assessment, decision-making, and goalsetting. K-8
- Health Education curriculum K-12. Standards-based lessons utilizing textbooks. Standards cover growth and development with proper identification of body parts, safe and unsafe touch, how to tell an adult if you don't feel safe, healthy and unhealthy behaviors.
- Health education classes Grades 7 and 9, comprehensive health education standards based instruction in mental, emotional and social health, injury prevention, sexual health.

We all have an ethical, legal and moral obligation to support our children

We are entrusted with the most precious gifts in the world – children!

Let's do our part to keep them safe.

Please proceed to the Learning Zone to complete the assessment.





