

Child Protection

Policy Scope

This policy relates to ACC Tasmania Ltd.

Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the school is a safe place for children to learn and grow.

Definition - Reportable Conduct

Reportable conduct relates to instances where a child might be at risk of:

1. Neglect
2. Physical abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Emotional maltreatment
5. Exposure to family violence

Definition - Mandatory Reporting

Mandatory reporting describes the legal obligation of certain professionals and community members to report incidences of child abuse and/or neglect. These people are called 'mandated reporters'. If mandated reporters fail to report they may be fined and/or incarcerated.

Section 14(1) of the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997 lists the following people as mandated to report:

1. principal and a teacher in any educational institution (including a kindergarten)
2. person who provides child care, or a child care service, for fee or reward
3. person concerned in the management of a child care service licensed under the Child Care Act 2001
4. any other person who is employed or engaged as an employee for, of or in, or who is a volunteer in;

Section 14(2) of the Act states that if a mandated, or as defined by the Act, prescribed person, in carrying out official duties or in the course of his or her work (whether paid or voluntary), believes, or suspects, on reasonable grounds, or knows:

1. that a child has been or is being abused or neglected or is an affected child within the meaning of the Family Violence Act 2004; or
2. that there is a reasonable likelihood of a child being killed or abused or neglected by a person with whom the child resides
3. The prescribed person must inform the Secretary or a Community-Based Intake Service of that belief, suspicion or knowledge as soon as practicable after he or she forms the belief or suspicion or gains the knowledge.

Procedure - Establishing Reasonable Grounds

1. You do not need to have proof to report any concerns you have about the safety of a child or young person. Indicators that represent reasonable grounds to report a suspected offence include:
 - a. A child or young person discloses that he or she has suffered or is suffering non accidental physical injury or sexual abuse
 - b. Someone else advises you that a child or young person has been sexually abused or non-accidentally injured, or
 - c. Your own observations of the child or young person's physical condition or behaviours lead you to reasonably suspect that the child or young person has suffered or is suffering non-accidental physical injury or sexual abuse.

Procedure - Making a Report

1. As an employee of the school you are obligated to inform the Principal of your intention to make a report after establishing reasonable grounds so that the Principal can take action to ensure the student's safety within the context of the school.
2. If the student is in immediate danger - contact the Tasmanian Police in consultation with the Principal.
3. If the mandatory reporter has established reasonable grounds, contact DHHS via phone or complete the online notification form in consultation with the Principal.
 - a. http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/child_protection_services/what_can_i_expect_when/child_protection_notification_form

Policy Review

On change of legislation or at the discretion of the School Board of ACC Tasmania Ltd

Policy Version

1.0