

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING POLICY

The responsibilities of an educator to report child abuse are:

In accordance with California law, school staff are obligated under penalty of fine and jail term to report the reasonable suspicion of physical abuse, emotional abuse, emotional deprivation, physical neglect, inadequate supervision, or sexual abuse and exploitation. In this very serious and legally narrow area, the school will not contact parents in advance of making a report to legal authorities which would be the procedure followed in most other legal matters. The clear intent of the law, based on the seriousness of the crimes listed above, is to mandate that a report of reasonable suspicion of abuse be made. School staff will make such reports in the best interest of the affected child and do not, once reasonable suspicion is established, have any legal alternative except to make the report to the proper authorities for their investigation and review.

STATEMENT REQUIRED REGARDING CHILD ABUSE

Under California law, certain employees are required to report any instances of known or reasonably suspected child abuse. Failure to comply is a misdemeanor. In addition, California law now requires that certain categories of employees hired after January 1, 1985, must sign a statement that he or she has knowledge of these reporting requirements and will comply with them. The law requires this signed statement as a condition of employment.

Section 11166 of the Penal Code requires any child care custodian (includes teachers, administrative officers, licensed day care workers, et al) . . . who has knowledge of or observes a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of a child abuse to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

I HAVE READ AND KNOW OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 1116 OF THE CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE AND WILL COMPLY WITH THIS PROVISION.

Signature of Employee

Date

City

State

(This signed statement shall be retained by the employer.)