

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE POLICY

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 119, Section 51A, any public or private school teacher, educational administrator, guidance or family counselor, nurse, or social worker, as well as certain other professionals, who in his/her professional capacity believes that a child under eighteen is suffering serious physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse or neglect, must immediately report such cases to the Department of Public Welfare.

The mandated reporter must make an oral report, and within 48 hours, must make a written report to the Department of Public Welfare. Alternatively, the mandated reporter may notify the person in charge of the school (or his/her designee) who shall then become responsible to make the oral and written report to the Department. The statute requires that such a report contain, among other things, the names and addresses of the child and his/her parents, the child's age and sex, the nature and extent of his/her injuries, the name of the person making the report, and various other information. Any person who is required to make such a report under the law and fails to do so is subject to a fine of not more than one thousand dollars. Mandated reporters are specifically exempted from liability in any civil or criminal action by reason of such a report.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 119:51A

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Hull Public Schools