



# Reporting Suspected **CHILD ABUSE**



**FRISCO**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

It's not just what's right . . .



**IT'S THE LAW!**

## If you suspect abuse . . .

**DON'T** try to investigate.

**DON'T** confront the abuser or contact the family. Doing so could hinder the investigation.

**DO** report your reasonable suspicions.

## Warning signs of abuse:

### Suspect physical abuse when you see . . .

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns, especially when the child cannot adequately explain their causes.
- Burns or bruises in an unusual pattern that may indicate the use of an instrument or a human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body.
- Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury.
- Aggressive, disruptive, and destructive behavior
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Fear of going home or seeing parents.



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- Passive, withdrawn, emotionless behavior
- Injuries that appear after the child has not been seen for several days.
- Unseasonable clothes that may hide injuries to arms or legs.

## **Suspect neglect when you see . . .**

- Obvious malnourishment
- Lack of personal cleanliness
- Torn and/or dirty clothes
- Obvious fatigue and listlessness
- Unattended for long periods of time
- Need for glasses, dental care, or other medical attention
- Stealing or begging for food
- Frequent absence or tardiness from school

## **Suspect sexual abuse if you see . . .**

- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Frequent expressions of sexual activity between adults and children
- Sexually suggestive, inappropriate, or promiscuous behavior



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- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Extreme fear of being alone with adults, especially if of a particular gender.
- Knowledge about sexual relations beyond what is appropriate for the child's age.
- Sexual victimization of other children

*The preceding indications do not by themselves necessarily indicate abuse.*



## **Report suspected abuse yourself!**

It is suggested that, as a professional courtesy, you inform a school administrator of your suspicions of abuse; however, this action does not satisfy or negate responsibility under Texas law to make a report within 48 hours. *The Texas Family Code* states, "a professional may not delegate to or rely on another person to make the report."



# How do I make a report?

1. Call the Texas Abuse and Neglect Hotline at **(800) 252-5400**,

OR

**Call 911 or your local law enforcement agency** if the situation is an emergency. An emergency is a situation where a child faces an immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in death or serious harm.

2. **Non-emergency** reports of suspected child abuse can be made online at [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org)
3. When you make a report, be specific. Tell exactly what happened and when.

**Document the date and time of the report and the case number.**

4. Be prepared to provide demographic information such as address, parents' names, siblings, etc., if known.

# Facts at a glance

- Anyone who has cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected must report it to the authorities.
- Professionals (including, but not limited to, teachers, doctors, nurses, and day-care employees) are required to make a report if they suspect that a child has been abused or neglected.
- A professional may NOT delegate the duty to report to another person, and the report should be made as soon as possible and must be made within 48 hours of the suspicion.
- Failure to make a report of suspected child abuse is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$2000, 180 days in jail, or both.