

Policies

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In compliance with the Rhode Island Child Abuse and Neglect Law, RI Gen. Laws § 40-11-1 et seq., any employee who has a reasonable basis to suspect that a child has been subject to abuse or neglect shall report that fact in accordance with the following procedures. As set forth in the statute, an "Abused and/or neglected child" means a child whose physical or mental health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm when his or her parent or other person responsible for his or her welfare:

- Inflicts, or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical or mental injury, including excessive corporal punishment; or
- Creates or allows to be created a substantial risk of physical or mental injury to the child, including excessive corporal punishment; or
- Commits or allows to be committed, against the child, an act of sexual abuse;
- Fails to supply the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care, though financially able to do so or offered financial or other reasonable means to do so; or
- Fails to provide the child with a minimum degree of care or proper supervision or guardianship because of his or her unwillingness or inability to do so by situations or conditions such as, but not limited to, social or psychiatric problems or disorders, mental incompetence, or the use of a drug, drugs, or alcohol to the extent that the parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare loses his or her ability or is unwilling to properly care for the child; or
- Abandons or deserts the child; or
- Sexually exploits the child in that the person allows, permits or encourages the child to engage in prostitution as defined by the provisions of chapter 34 of title 11, entitled "Prostitution and Lewdness"; or
- Sexually exploits the child in that the person allows, permits, encourages or engages in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming or depiction of the child in a setting which taken as a whole suggests to the average person that the child is

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about to engage in or has engaged in, any sexual act, or which depicts any such child under eighteen (18) years of age, performing sodomy, oral copulation, sexual intercourse, masturbation, or bestiality; or

- Commits or allows to be committed any sexual offense against the child as such sexual offenses are defined by the provisions of chapter 37 of title 11 entitled "Sexual Assault", as amended; or
- Commits or allows to be committed against any child an act involving sexual penetration or sexual contact if the child is under fifteen (15) years of age; or if the child is fifteen (15) years or older, and (1) force or coercion is used by the perpetrator, or (2) the perpetrator knows or has reason to know that the victim is a severely impaired person as defined by the provisions of § 11-5-11, or physically helpless as defined by the provisions of § 11-37-6. The following regulations and procedures concerning suspected cases of child abuse or neglect have been formulated to conform to the Rhode Island Child Abuse and Neglect Law and the Policy of the Newport School Committee:

The employee who suspects child neglect or abuse shall promptly report the suspicion and the reasons therefore to the school Principal.

The Principal shall consult with the school nurse and any other school professional the Principal deems appropriate concerning each individual case and shall promptly notify the Rhode Island Department for Children, Youth and Families in those situations where the suspicion of abuse or neglect appears well-founded to the Principal. The Principal shall also advise the Superintendent that the report has been made.

Reference

RI Gen. Laws § 40-11-1 et seq.

History: JHCAA; JHCAA-E (1to3)