

FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALL PERSONNEL

Policy No.: 4060

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse

Board Adopted: 6/27/89

Board Revised: 7/29/03

Board Revised: November 29, 2005

The Board of Trustees of the Fullerton School District recognizes the devastating impact of child abuse and neglect upon its victims, and society as a whole. For purposes of this policy and the accompanying Administrative Regulation, child abuse and neglect shall include sexual abuse as defined in California Penal Code section 11165.1. The District declares that suspected child abuse and neglect should be reported to appropriate child protective agencies by all employees of the school district, per Penal Code section 11164-11174.4, known as the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act.

At the same time, the District recognizes that employees may feel that their reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect could lead to personal liability or other legal action against them. In order to eliminate any potential and/or perceived threat or barrier to reporting suspected child abuse and neglect, the District shall indemnify from civil liability and provide for the defense of any civil action brought against a classified employee who reports suspected child abuse and neglect pursuant to the terms of the Penal Code and/or District policy. This protection shall not apply to any classified employee who is proved to have knowingly filed a false child abuse and neglect report.

While it is not the duty of any employee to investigate suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect, the District expects full cooperation by its employees with any agency or agencies responsible for reporting, investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training for all District employees, as mandated by law, concerning identification of child abuse and neglect and appropriate reporting procedures. In the event that training is not provided to the employees mandated to report child abuse and neglect, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education the reasons that such training is not provided.

The absence of training, however, shall not excuse a mandated reporter from the duty to report child abuse and neglect.

Legal Reference: Government Code
995-996.6

Defense of Public Employees

Penal Code
11164-11174.4

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act