

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

Policy Name SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE 510

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POLICY

The Superior-Greenstone District School Board is committed to the prevention of and protection against child abuse or neglect. The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with the mandatory reporting requirements under the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) 1990 (as amended) to report suspected cases of child abuse involving students under the age of 16 years to the appropriate Children's Aid Society or Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

PROCEDURES

1.0 Duty to Report

Every employee and any person, including those performing professional or official duties with respect to children, who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is in, or may be, in need of protection must report this information without delay to the appropriate Children's Aid Society or Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

1.1 Person Must Report Directly

A person who has a duty to report a matter shall make the report directly to a Children's Aid Society or Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and shall not rely on any other person to report on his or her behalf.

A person who has additional reasonable grounds to suspect that child abuse or neglect may have occurred, or is likely to occur, shall make a further report even if he/she has made previous reports with respect to the same child.

1.2 Individual Making Report

The individual making the report shall inform the Principal immediately.

The duty of a person, including those performing professional or official duties with respect to children, to make a report overrides the provisions of any other provincial statute that would otherwise prohibit the professional or official from disclosing confidential or privileged information.

In all cases of suspected child abuse or neglect, persons making a report shall respect the privacy of all individuals involved and the confidentiality of all discussions and reports.

No action for making a report shall be instituted against a person who acts in accordance with the duty to report unless the person acts maliciously or without reasonable grounds for the suspicion.

A person performing professional or official duties with respect to children, who does not report the suspicion that a child is in need, or may be in need of protection based on information obtained in the course of his/her professional/official duties, and is convicted of the offence, is liable to a fine.

1.3 Responsibility to Report to Supervisory Officers

1.3.1 The Principal shall inform the Superintendent of Education immediately.

1.3.2 The Superintendent of Education shall inform the Director immediately.

1.4 Responsibility of the Board

The Board shall ensure that opportunities exist to educate all students about their right to live without fear of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect and will support disclosure of such abuse.

The Board will educate its employees, volunteers and parents about the issues of abuse and neglect and their duty to maintain safe and abuse-free learning environments.

Where abuse has been reported, the Superior-Greenstone District School Board will cooperate fully with the investigating agency.

Reference Documents

Child and Family Services Act, (Section 72) 1990

Student Protection Act, 2002

Education Act, Regulation 298