

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE / CHILD PROTECTION

Any school personnel or any other person having responsibility for the care or treatment of a minor and who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of physical injury, abuse, child abuse, a reportable offense or neglect that appears to have been inflicted upon the minor by other than accidental means or that is not explained by the available medical history as being accidental in nature or who reasonably believes there has been a denial or deprivation of necessary medical treatment or surgical care or nourishment with the intent to cause or allow the death of an infant who is protected under A.R.S. 36-2281 shall immediately report or cause reports to be made of such information to a peace officer or to the Child Protective Services (CPS) of the Department of Economic Security, except if the report concerns a person who does not have care, custody, or control of the minor, the report shall be made to a peace officer only. Such reports shall be made immediately ~~in person or by~~ either electronically or by telephone means. ~~Verbal reports shall be followed by a written report. Pursuant to A.R.S. 13-3620, such reports shall contain, if known:~~

The Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families, has determined that all mandated reporters may now electronically submit non-emergency reports via a secure online reporting website. Non-emergency reports are those in which a child is not at immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in serious harm. Mandated reporters will be able to submit non-emergency reports 24 hours a day without wait times.

All reports made via the online website will **require the person making the report (reporting source) to provide contact information.** A representative from the Child Abuse Hotline may contact the source for additional information, if necessary. This process will make it more convenient to meet the mandated reporting requirements and help ensure child safety.

All **emergency situations** where a child faces an immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in serious harm must still be reported by calling 911 or 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445). If a reporting source is unsure as to whether or not the report is an emergency situation, the reporting source should call the Child Abuse Hotline to make a report.

Any concerns for the safety of a child due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, **must be reported**, by:

Calling 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445),

TDD: 602-530-1831 (1-800-530-1831), or

Submitting **non-emergency** concerns via the Online Reporting Service for Mandated Reporters at https://www.azdes.gov/dcyf/cps/mandated_reporters (effective November 2013).

[Note the website requires an underscore between *mandated* and *reporters*.]

Pursuant to A.R.S. 13-3620, such reports shall contain, if known:

- The names and addresses of the minor, the parents, or the person or persons having custody of such minor.
- The minor's age and the nature and extent of the minor's abuse, child abuse, or physical injuries or neglect, including any evidence of previous abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.
- Any other information that such person believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.

A person who furnishes a report, information, or records required or authorized under Arizona Revised Statutes or a person who participates in a judicial or administrative proceeding or investigation resulting from a report, information or records required or authorized under Arizona Revised Statutes is immune from any civil or criminal liability by reason of that action unless such person has acted with malice or unless such person has been charged with or is suspected of abusing or neglecting the child or children in question.

A report is not required under A.R.S. 13-3620 for conduct prescribed by A.R.S. 13-1404 and 13-1405 if the conduct involves only minors who are fourteen (14), fifteen (15), sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age and there is nothing to indicate that the conduct is other than consensual.

A report is not required if a minor is of elementary school age, the physical injury occurs accidentally in the course of typical playground activity during a school day, occurs on the premises of the school that the minor attends and is reported to the legal parent or guardian of the minor and the school maintains a written record of the incident. The school will maintain a written record of the physical injury as part of the student's health file as required by Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records (ASLAPR).

A person who fails to report abuse as provided in A.R.S. 13-3620 is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor except if the failure to report involves a reportable offense, the person is guilty of a class 6 felony.

Any certificated person or Governing Board member who reasonably suspects or receives a reasonable allegation that a person certificated by the Department of Education has engaged in conduct involving minors that would be subject to the reporting requirements of A.R.S. 13-3620 shall report or cause reports to be made to the Department of Education in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable but not later

than three (3) business days after the person first suspects or receives an allegation of the conduct.

Any school employee who has orally reported to CPS or a peace officer a reasonable belief of an offense to a minor must provide written notification to the principal of the oral report not later than the next workday following the making of the report.

Adopted: date of Manual adoption

LEGAL REF.: A.R.S. 8-201
13-1404 *et seq.*
13-1410
13-3019
13-3212
13-3506
13-3506.01
13-3552
13-3553
13-3608
13-3619
13-3620
13-3623
15-514
46-451
46-454

CROSS REF.: GBEB - Staff Conduct
GBEBB - Staff Conduct With Students
JKA – Corporal Punishment