



Mandated Reporter Notification for Volunteers

Who are mandated reporters for child abuse & neglect?

O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5(b)(5) designated several categories of individuals as mandated reporters. All child service organization personnel who "having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall report or cause reports of that abuse to be made."

Child service personnel means persons employed by *or volunteering* at a business or organization that provides care, treatment, education, training, supervision, coaching, counseling, recreational programs, or shelter to children.

What must you do as a mandated reporter?

Make a report any time they suspect that a child has been abused. Reports may be made to the designated reporters for Whitfield County Schools (school administrators, counselors, and school social workers) or the local or state DFCS office. Knowingly and willfully failing to report a case of suspected child abuse is a misdemeanor offense under Georgia law. A mandated reporter is immune from civil or criminal liability if the report is made in good faith.

What should you do if a child discloses abuse?

- Find a quiet place to talk, listen openly and calmly.
- Reassure the child and tell the child that you believe him or her.
- You should not investigate further on your own or prompt the child for details beyond his or her initial disclosure.
- As soon as possible, write down the facts as the child stated them.
- Respect the child's confidentiality.
- Report information immediately, preferably to the school counselor, school social worker, or school administrator. However, you may also report directly to the local or state DFCS offices.

Additional Information for Mandated Reporters

All of our volunteers are encouraged to learn more about child abuse prevention and the responsibilities of mandated reporters. The district has provided a mandated reporter awareness presentation and additional resources to help you better understand the signs of abuse, types of abuse, and the important role of caring adults in the prevention of child abuse, at wcsga.net/volunteers.

_____ I have read and understand my obligations as a mandated reporter.

_____ I have Completed the GA Mandated Reporter Training Course at compliance-director.org.
My certificate is on file with a Whitfield County School.

_____ I agree to abide by this obligation while volunteering at a Whitfield County School.

_____ Signature

Please turn this form into your school's office

_____ Printed Name

_____ Date