



Redlands Unified School District

Educational Services Division

P.O. Box 3008 Redlands, California 92373-1508 (909) 307-5300 FAX (909) 307-5335

Redlands Unified School District
Legal Notice for Pupils and Parents/Guardians

Child Abuse Reporting Procedures for Parents and Guardians

School Districts throughout California recently received guidelines from the California Department of Education to assist school administrators and counselors in the event a parent or guardian suspects child abuse has occurred. These guidelines will provide you with the tools needed to help parents know whether or not child abuse has occurred and, if so, how to file a complaint of child abuse with local law enforcement.

WHAT ACTIONS CONSTITUTE CHILD ABUSE:

Child Abuse can be any of the following:

- A physical injury which is inflicted on a child by another person other than by accidental means.
- The sexual abuse, assault, or exploitation of a child.
- The negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare, whether the harm or threatened harm is from acts or omissions on the part of the responsible person.
- The willful infliction upon a child of any cruel or inhumane corporal punishment or any injury resulting in a traumatic condition.
- The willful harming or injuring of a child or endangering of the person or the health of a child where the person responsible for the child's welfare is a licensee, administrator or employee of a public or private school or other institution or agency.

CHILD ABUSE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- A mutual fight between minors;
- An injury that is caused by the actions of a peace officer using reasonable and necessary force within the scope of his or her employment;
- An injury caused by any force that is reasonable and necessary for a person employed by or engaged in a school;
 1. To stop a disturbance threatening physical injury to people or damage to property;
 2. For the purposes of self-defense;
 3. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within control of a pupil; or
 4. To exercise the degree of control reasonably necessary to maintain order, protect property, protect the health and safety of pupils, and maintain proper and appropriate conditions conducive to learning.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT OF CHILD ABUSE COMMITTED AT A SCHOOL SITE

Parents and guardians have the right to file a complaint against a school employee or other person they suspect has engaged in abuse of a child at a school site. To file a complaint, the parent or guardian must file a formal report with an *appropriate* local law enforcement agency. An appropriate law enforcement agency may be one of the following:

A police or Sheriff's Dept. / County Probation Dept. / County Welfare /Child Protective Services

(not including a school police department or school security department)

The complaint can be filed over the telephone, in person at the local law enforcement agency, County Probation, or County Welfare/Child Protective Agency, or in writing to any of the aforementioned agencies. School districts and county offices of education, however, **do not** investigate child abuse allegations.

The local law enforcement agency is required to investigate all complaints.

S. B. County Child Abuse Reporting Hotline (909) 384-9233 / S.B. County Probation Dept. (909) 383-2700
S. B. County CPS website: hs.sbcounty.gov/cfs
S. B. City Police (909) 383-5311
S. B. Sheriff's Department Stations: Highland - (909) 425-9793 / Loma Linda - (909)387-3545 / Yucaipa - (909) 790-3105
Redlands Police Department (909) 798-7681