

CIVICORPS SCHOOLS
Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting Policy

Mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect is required under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act by any mandated reporter. "Child" is defined as a person under the age of 18 years. A mandated reporter is any individual who is an employee of a youth organization or public school. The term "child abuse or neglect" includes sexual abuse; neglect defined as the negligent treatment or the 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 including both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person; willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment; unlawful corporal punishment or injury; and abuse or neglect in out-of-home care. Child abuse or neglect does not include a mutual affray between minors or an injury caused by reasonable and necessary force used by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of his or her employment as a peace officer.

All employees of Civicorps Schools must also comply with the reporting responsibilities outlined in the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act in reporting the concern immediately or as soon as is practicably possible (within 36 hours) by telephone, to child protective services, any police department, sheriff's department, county probation department, if designated by the county to receive mandated reports, or the county welfare department. School district police or security departments are not considered acceptable reporting agencies. The individual making the report must also prepare and send a written report to the reporting agency within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

Employees shall not contact the child's family or any other persons to determine or investigate the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect. Any personal interview of the child should be conducted in a professional manner, after consulting with Human Resources. In any investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect, all persons participating in the investigation of the case shall consider the needs of the child victim and shall do whatever is necessary to prevent psychological harm to the child.