

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

In compliance with state law, and to provide for the greatest possible protection to victims of child abuse, the board believes child abuse should be reported to the proper authorities. Employees are encouraged, and the law requires licensed employees, to report to the State Department of Human Services within twenty-four hours when, in the course of their employment, they reasonably believe a child has suffered from abuse.

Child Abuse is defined as:

- any non accidental injury suffered by the child as the result of acts or omissions of the child's caretaker;
- the commission of a sexual offense upon the child by the child's caretaker;
- the failure of the caretaker to provide adequate shelter, nutrition, clothing or other care; or
- acts or omissions on the part of the caretaker which allows the child to participate in prostitution.

When a mandatory reporter suspects a student is the victim of child abuse, the mandatory reporter shall orally notify the Iowa Department of Human Services. If the mandatory reporter believes the child is in immediate danger, the local law enforcement agency shall also be notified. Within forty-eight hours of the report, the mandatory reporter shall file a written report with the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Within two months of their initial employment, mandatory reporters shall take a two-hour training course involving the identification and reporting of child abuse. The course shall be completed every five years.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Iowa, Sections 232.67-.77; 235A; 272A; 280.17 (2003).

441 I.A.C. 9.2; 155; 175.

640 I.A.C. 4.9.

1980 Op. Att'y. Gen. 275.

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