

REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

It is the policy of the Souhegan Cooperative School District to comply with the requirements of RSA169-C in reporting suspected child abuse and neglect. Further, it is our policy to cooperate with the New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and law enforcement agencies in the course of investigations into alleged child abuse or neglect as outlined in RSA 169-C.

If a school employee* suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, he/she will make a report immediately to DCYF and the school principal will be notified that a report has been filed. Employees who do not ordinarily work with children, and volunteers, will notify the principal if they suspect a child has been abused or neglected.

An oral report shall be made immediately to DCYF by telephone and followed within 48 hours by a report in writing, if so requested by DCYF. Each report shall, if known, contain the name and address of the child(ren) suspected of being neglected and abused; the name of the parent or care giver responsible for the child's welfare; the specific information and/or observations indicating neglect or the nature and extent of the child's injuries; the identity of the person(s) suspected of being responsible for such abuse and neglect; and any other information that might be helpful in the investigation or that may be required by DCYF. For a complete list of information to report, please refer to the *Child Abuse and Neglect: Guidelines for New Hampshire Educators: Identifying and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect* (Attorney General's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect-Second Edition, 2002). A copy is available in each principal's office.

The principal will conduct or provide staff training regarding the recognition and the reporting of child abuse and neglect for all employees.

** School employees here mean the following who work with children: administrators, teachers, specialists, therapists, counselors, social workers, teacher assistants, tutors, nurses, and advisors.*

Statutory Reference:
RSA 169-C

ADOPTED: December 5, 2002