

AS A VOLUNTEER, WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT REPORTING CHILD ABUSE?



The Law

New child abuse reporting rules went into effect July 1, 2012. These rules require school volunteers to report suspected child abuse.

"An oral report shall be made immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused, by telephone or otherwise and followed by a report in writing, if requested to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Services, or in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney."

Mandatory Reporting Within our School District

Within the Catoosa County School District, mandated child abuse protocol directs school staff, volunteers, or anyone in contact with district students to contact a school counselor or school administrator immediately to report suspected child abuse.

Mrs. Davey is responsible for filing these reports, so please give her the information on the same day that you learn of a situation. If she is unavailable, you may share the information with Mr. Mountjoy or Mrs. Welborn. It is important that we report possible abuse as soon as possible!

Required Video on Mandatory Reporting

All school staff and anyone involved with students including volunteers must watch the informational child abuse video.

What are the Rights of Mandated Reporters?

- Anonymity or confidentiality
- Immunity for a "good faith" report
- Knowledge that a report was made
- Penalty for not reporting - Guilty of misdemeanor

How do I know if information should be reported?

If you hear something that concerns you, it is best to let either the counselor or an administrator know as quickly as possible. Mrs. Davey and Mr. Mountjoy work together to determine the seriousness of each allegation. Even if it does not warrant a report, knowing the information may help us better serve our students. Better to be safe than sorry!

Thank you so much for your time and efforts as a volunteer. This law is put into place to ensure the safety of our children, and we appreciate your help in caring for them. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Mrs. Charity Davey.