

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEILLSVILLE
POLICY FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

PHILOSOPHY

The School District of Neillsville recognizes that the most important role of the school in today's society is to provide students with the best possible opportunities for educational success. The district also recognizes that children who are abused and/or neglected not only are harmed physically and emotionally, but also educationally. The district is committed to providing a positive environment within the school and assisting families and community child protection agencies to provide positive environments in the home and community.

CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT REPORTING POLICY

It shall be the policy of the School District of Neillsville to require that all district employees who have knowledge of, or who suspect, child abuse or neglect, or the threat of child abuse or neglect, immediately report all such actual or suspected child abuse or neglect situations to the Clark County Department of Social Services. If a report to that department is not possible then district staff shall report child abuse or neglect of children to the Clark County Sheriff's Department or to the Neillsville Municipal Police Department. If the child's abuse or neglect is life threatening, the staff is first to make a report to the law enforcement agency and request an immediate investigation. Upon making the report the district staff person shall also immediately report the law enforcement referral to the Clark County Department of Social Services.

A report is described as "...the facts and circumstances contributing to a suspicion of child abuse or neglect or to a belief that child abuse or neglect will occur..." WI Stats. s. 48.981 (3). The law requires such information to be conveyed to the county social services department or the local law enforcement agency.

No person making a report may be discharged from employment for so doing (WI Stats. s. 48.981)

It is the policy of the School District of Neillsville to maintain as confidential any and all information pertaining to the suspected child abuse or neglect report and to share that information only with those individuals provided for under WI Stats. s. 48.891. The school's reporter name must also be disclosed to the Department of Social Services and/or law enforcement.

District staff, who are required by law to make an "immediate" report, may consult with other district staff prior to making a report, but may not delay the report to the Department of Social Services or law enforcement. The staff member making the report should also notify their supervisor, as soon as possible, that a report was made. If the building principal is unavailable for any reason, the individual making the report shall contact the next administrator in the chain of command. The building principal, or such other administrator that the staff person making the report contacts, shall support the staff member in their action and shall not attempt to delay, modify, or prevent any report of suspected child maltreatment.

STUDENT SAFETY - ABUSE OR NEGLECT REPORTING

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The fact that a report of suspected child abuse or neglect has been made, including the name of the reporter, the name of the alleged victim, and the content of the report, shall be kept confidential from all staff and other persons not authorized under WI Stats. s. 48.981, to have that information. Staff members who divulge such information to an unauthorized person or persons are liable for disciplinary action from the district as well as the penalties provided in WI Stats. s. 48.981.

Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be made to the following community resources:

1. Clark County Department of Social Services
517 Court Street
Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456
Day Phone Number 743-5233
2. Clark County Sheriff's Department
517 Court Street
Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456
Day Phone Number 743-3157
3. Neillsville Municipal Police Department
118 West 5th Street
Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456
Day Phone Number 743-3122

When making a report, the district employee shall provide as much of the following information as possible:

1. The employee's name, position, relationship to the child, and school phone number.
2. The name, home address, and age of the child suspected of being abused.
3. The name, home address, work place, home phone number of the alleged victim's parents.
4. The names and ages of the alleged victim's siblings.
5. A brief description of why you believe the child is abused or neglected or is threatened with abuse or neglect, statements the child made to the reporter or to others, and any surrounding circumstances and conditions in the home of which the reporter is aware.

Initial Adoption: 2/09/04

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