

VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

SUPERINTENDENT POLICY NO. 4050

ADOPTED: 11/4/02

CLASSIFICATION: Personnel

REVISED:

SUBJECT: Reporting Procedures for School Employees Accused of Child Abuse

Regardless of whom child abusers may be, the major responsibilities of mandated reporters are to: 1) identify incidents of suspected child abuse; and 2) comply with laws requiring the reporting of suspected child abuse to the proper authorities. Determining whether or not the suspected abuse actually occurred is not the responsibility of the school employee. Such determination and follow-up investigation will be made by a child protective agency.

Pending the outcome of an investigation by a child protective agency and before formal charges are filed, the employee may be subject to reassignment or a paid leave of absence.

Upon filing formal charges or upon conviction, the district shall take disciplinary action in accordance with law, district policies, regulations and/or collective bargaining agreements. The Superintendent or designee shall seek legal counsel in connection with either the suspension or dismissal of the employee.

Section 11166 of the Penal Code requires any child care custodian, health practitioner, firefighter, animal control officer, or humane society officer, employee of a child protective agency or child visitation monitor who has knowledge of or observes a child in his/her professional capacity or within the scope of his/her employment who he/she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

“Child care custodian” includes teachers, an instructional aide, a teacher’s aide, or a teacher’s assistant employed by any public or private school, who has been trained in the duties imposed by this article, if the school district has so warranted to the State Department of Education; a classified employee of any public school who has been trained in the duties imposed by this article, if the school has so warranted to the State Department of Education; administrative officers, supervisors of child welfare and attendance, or certificated pupil personnel employees of any public or private school; administrators of a public or private day camp; administrators and employees of public or private youth centers, youth recreation programs and youth organizations; administrators and employees of public or private organizations whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children and who have been trained in the duties imposed by this article; licensees, administrators and employees of licensed community care or child day care facilities; Head Start teachers; licensing workers or licensing evaluators; public assistance workers; employees of a child care institution including, but not limited to, foster

parents, group home personnel, and personnel of residential care facilities; social workers, probation officers or parole officers; employees of a school district police or security department; any person who is an administrator or a presenter of, or a counselor in, a child abuse prevention program in any public or private school; a district attorney investigator, inspector, or family support officer unless the investigator, inspector or officer is working with an attorney appointed pursuant to Section 317 of the Welfare and Institution Code to represent a minor; or a peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of this code, who is not otherwise described in this section.

“Health practitioner” includes physicians and surgeons, psychiatrists, psychologists, dentists, residents, interns, podiatrists, chiropractors, licensed nurses, dental hygienists, optometrists, or any other person who is licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code; marriage, family and child counselors; emergency medical technicians I or II, paramedics, or other persons certificated pursuant to Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797) of the Health and Safety Code; psychological assistants registered pursuant to Section 2913 of the Business and Professions Code; marriage, family and child counselor trainees as defined in subdivision c. of Section 4980.03 of the Business and Professions Code; unlicensed marriage, family and child counselor interns registered under Section 4980.44 of the Business and Professions Code; state or county public health employees who treat minors for venereal disease or any other condition; coroners, paramedics; and religious practitioners who diagnose, examine, or treat children.

“Child visitation monitor” means any person as defined in Section 11165.15.

This subdivision is not applicable to persons employed by child protective agencies, public or private youth centers, youth recreation programs and youth organizations as members of the support staff or maintenance staff and who do not work with, observe, or have knowledge of children as part of their official duties.

(cf. 4117.4 – Dismissal)

(cf. 4118 – Suspension/Disciplinary Action [Certificated])

(cf. 4218 – Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action [Classified])