CHILD ABUSE

The Fremont Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Schools or his designee to develop procedures to advise staff members of their responsibilities as described by statutes relating to child abuse.

The Superintendent of Schools or his designee, is directed to develop administrative regulations outlining the procedure to be followed by staff members in cases in which child abuse is suspected.

Abuse or neglect shall mean knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be:

a. Placed in a situation that endangers his life or physical or mental health;
b. Cruelly confined, or cruelly punished;
c. Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care;
d. Left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such minor child is six years of age or younger; or
e. Sexually abused.

All school employees shall report to the appropriate legal authorities any instance where they have reasonable cause to believe or suspect that a child have been subjected to abuse or instance where they observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse.

In cases of investigation of child abuse reports, the decision to inform parents or guardians lies in the hands of the investigation authorities.

Policy 51A.11 identifies the responsibilities of the Attendance Officer. Administrative Regulations should be developed to use him/her in child abuse situations.

Adopted: November 9, 1987

Revised: July 13, 1998

Revised: December 18, 2000

It is the policy of the Fremont Public Schools that when any teacher or school employee has reason to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, the following steps should be taken:

Note: Fremont Public Schools staff shall not investigate, make judgements or conclusions about whether abuse/neglect has occurred, and should instead allow Child Protective Services and law enforcement to determine whether or not an abusive or neglectful situation exists.

1. A staff person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child is being abused or neglected or knows a child is in a situation that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, is obligated to report such abuse to the proper school and law enforcement authorities.

   a. The teacher or employee should immediately contact the building principal with the appropriate information.

   b. The building principal will in turn immediately contact the counselor, school nurse and the Home-School Liaison.

   c. In absence of the building principal, the staff member may contact any member of the team who will in turn contact remaining members of the team.

   d. Upon their observation of the child, and with information received from the teacher and other appropriate sources, a decision shall be made regarding notification of Child Protection Services Agencies.

   e. In cases of disagreement with findings of the team, the staff member may file directly with law enforcement and Child Protective Services.

2. Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect are to be filed with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Law Enforcement. Reports involving **physical injury or sexual abuse** to a child shall be reported **immediately** to **law enforcement** to allow adequate time for officers to safely interview the child during school hours and document any injuries. When a report involves physical injury of a child the school nurse shall also be contacted.

The appropriate law enforcement agencies include:

1. Dodge County Sheriff's Department for children who live outside of the city limits.
2. Fremont Police Department for children who live within the city limits.

Following a report to the appropriate law enforcement and child protection agencies, a **REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT** shall be completed by the designated school authority and a signed copy sent directly to the home-school liaison. These reports will remain confidential and will be kept by the home-school liaison.

CONFIDENTIAL DO NOT PUT IN CUM FILE

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT REPORT
STUDENT SERVICES
FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FREMONT, NEBRASKA

School _____Date _____
Student I.D. Number _____

Student_____ D.O.B. _____Sex _____
Race _____

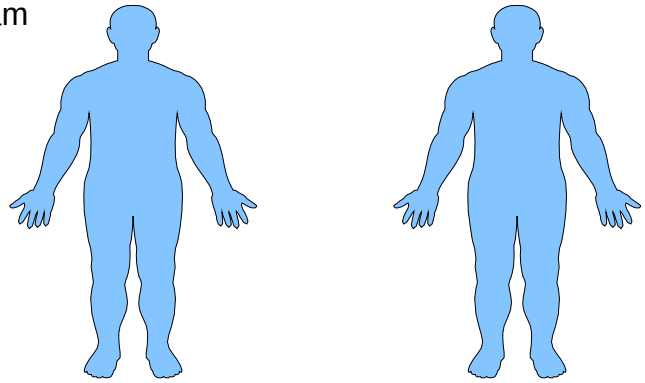
Parent/Guardian _____ Address
_____

Phone number_____(H)_____ (WK) Date of incident
_____

Reasons for suspecting abuse/neglect:
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Physical Observations: (if applicable)
_____
_____

Identify location of injuries on diagram



Persons Notified:

(1) _____
Principal/Administrator

(2) _____
Child Protective Services

(3) _____
Police Officer & Case No. (if applicable)

(4) _____
Other

Other pertinent information:
_____

_____

_____

_____
Signature of reporting person

FORM TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 48 HOURS OF VERBAL REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.