

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

It is the policy of the Huron school district that any teacher or other school employee who suspects that a child under 18 years of age has been neglected or physically abused, other than by accidental means, shall report orally or in writing to the principal or superintendent who shall then immediately report to either the state's attorney, the department of social services, the county sheriff, or to the city police. The principal or superintendent shall, in writing, inform the school employee initiating the action within 24 hours that the report has been made.

The report shall contain the following information: name, address, and age of child; name and address of parent or guardian; nature and extent of injuries or description of suspected neglect; any other information that might help establish the cause of injuries or condition.

School employees, including administrators, shall not contact the child's family or any other persons to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect. It is not the responsibility of the school employees to prove that the child has been abused or neglected, or to determine whether the child is in need of protection, only to report their suspicions of abuse or neglect.

Information or records concerning reports of suspected abuse or neglect are confidential, and the release to persons other than provided by law is a criminal offense, punishable under state law. Failure to make a report where abuse or neglect is suspected is also a criminal offense punishable under state law.

Anyone who participates in making a report in accordance with the law and in good faith is immune from any civil or criminal liability that may otherwise arise from the reporting or from any resulting judicial proceeding even if the suspicion is proven to be unfounded.