



HARRISBURG TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN POLICY

It is the policy of the Harrisburg Township Park District to maintain compliance with the State of Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act under section 325 ILCS 5/1, Chapter 23 and Paragraph 2051 which protects the health, safety, and best interest of children in all situations which children are vulnerable to child abuse or neglect.

I. DEFINITIONS

The following words shall have the following meanings when used in this Policy.

“District” means HARRISBURG TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT.

“Board” means the Board of Commissioners of the District.

“Person” means any individual in the employ of the District.

“Policy” means this Abused and Neglected Children Policy.

II. ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLICY

As the District serves a significant number of children in its programs and services, it is mandated to comply with the Abused and Neglected Child Care Reporting Act. The act requires staff who have a reasonable cause to believe a child may have been abused or neglected shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Department of Children and Family Services. Under no circumstances shall any person in charge of any or all part of the District exercise any control, restraint or modification or other change in the report or the forwarding of such report to the Department of Children and Family Services.

The phone number to report abuse or neglect is 1 (800) 25 ABUSE (1 -800-252-2873).

Failure to report suspected abuse or neglect may result in criminal penalties under the Act and disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

III. DEFINITION OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Physical Abuse as defined by the Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), (Section 3) occurs when a parent or a person responsible for the child's welfare:

- “inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury, by other than accidental means, which causes death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function”. Such common injuries include bruises, human bites, bone fractures, and burns.
- “creates a substantial risk of physical injury” likely to have the physical impacts listed above. Examples in DCFS allegation definitions include such incidents as choking or smothering a child, shaking or throwing a small child, and violently pushing or shoving a child into fixed objects. Other circumstances include incidents of domestic violence in which the child was threatened, violations of orders for the perpetrator to remain apart from the child, and a history of past sexual abuse which may place other children at risk.
- “acts of torture” which is defined by DCFS as “deliberately and/or systematically inflicting cruel or unusual treatment which results in physical or mental suffering”.
- “inflicts excessive corporal punishment” is included in ANCRA, but is not specifically further defined by DCFS. However, bruises inflicted on a child, especially a young child, are usually considered as meeting this definition.
- “commits or allows to be committed the offense of female genital mutilation”.
- “causes to be sold, transferred, distributed, or given to such child under 18 years of age, a controlled substance” (i.e. illegal drugs) except when prescribed by a physician.

Sexual Abuse occurs when a person responsible for the child's welfare commits any of the following acts:

- Sexually transmitted diseases are by DCFS definition “diseases which were acquired originally as a result of sexual penetration or conduct with an individual who was afflicted”.
- Sexual penetration includes any contact between the sex organ of one person and the sex organ, mouth, or anus of another person. Typical acts include vaginal, oral and anal sex.
- Sexual exploitation is defined by DCFS as “sexual use of a child for sexual arousal gratification, advantage, or profit”. This includes such acts as explicit verbal enticements, child pornography, self-masturbation in the child's presence, and forcing a child to watch sex acts.
- sexual molestation is defined by DCFS as “sexual conduct with a child when such contact, touching, or interaction is used for arousal or gratification of sexual needs or desires”. Examples include fondling a child or having the child touch the perpetrator sexually. (DCFS Procedures 300.Appendix B)

For both physical and sexual abuse, parents and caretakers are charged with the responsibility to take reasonable steps to stop abuse. If they do not, they may be charged with abuse themselves. (ANCRA Section 3)

Neglect occurs when a person responsible for the child deprives or fails to provide the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or needed medical treatment. Neglect is also alleged when an adult provides inadequate supervision of a child. This can occur when children are left either unsupervised or in the care of someone unable to supervise due to his/her condition. Children can suffer injuries that are the result of “blatant disregard” and are considered neglect. According to DCFS: “Blatant disregard is a situation in which the risk of harm to a child is so imminent and apparent that it is unlikely that any parent or caretaker would expose the child to such without taking precautionary measures to protect the child.” (DCFS Procedures 300 Appendix B)

IV. PROCEDURES

The District fully complies with the State of Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. The District will make every reasonable effort and precaution to prevent, detect, handle and report cases of suspected child abuse and neglect for children who come in direct contact with District programs, areas, and facilities. This includes providing training on this issue to employees and/or anyone else involved in interacting with or supervising children.

When an employee has reasonable cause to believe that a child known to him/her in a professional or official capacity may be abused or neglected, the employee must immediately:

- Inform his/her supervisor of the situation.
- Report or cause a report to be made to the DCFS child abuse hotline.
- The report should be made at the first opportunity after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has suffered abuse or neglect. The report should be sent directly to the Department of Children and Family Services, either through a statewide toll free telephone number or through the nearest department office. Reporting should be regarded as a request for an investigation into a suspected incident of abuse/neglect.
- If a child seems in immediate danger, his/her life is threatened and/or emergency medical care is needed, the supervisor may call the police.
- In a medical emergency the child may be taken to an appropriate hospital for treatment. The parent should be immediately contacted.

V. AMENDMENTS

This Policy may be amended by the District at any time. If the Policy is amended, the District shall file a written copy of the Policy, as amended, with the Board and shall also advise all District employees of the existence of the amended Policy.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Policy becomes effective OCTOBER 25, 2019.

Richard Rumsey
Richard Rumsey, President

Doug Emery
Doug Emery, Vice President

10/25/19
Date Signed

ATTEST:

Michael Williams
Michael Williams, Secretary / Treasurer

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MANDATED REPORTER STATUS

I, _____, understand that when I am employed as a
(Employee Name)

Recreation or Athletic Program or Facility Personnel, I will become a mandated reporter under the
(Type of Employment)

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/4). This means that I am required to report or cause a report to be made to the child abuse Hotline number (1-800-25A-BUSE) whenever I have reasonable cause to believe that a child known to me in my professional or official capacity may be abused or neglected. I understand that there is no charge when calling the Hotline number and that the Hotline operates 24-hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

I further understand that the privileged quality of communication between me and my patient of client is not grounds for failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect, I know that if I willfully fail to report suspected child abuse or neglect, I may be found guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. This does not apply to physicians who will be referred to the Illinois state Medical Disciplinary Board for action.

I also understand that if I am subject to licensing under the Illinois Nursing Act of 1987, the Medical Practice Act of 1987, the Illinois Dental Practice Act, the School Code, the Acupuncture Practice Act, the Illinois Optometric Practice Act of 1987, the Illinois Physical Therapy Act, the Physician Assistants Practice Act of 1987, the Podiatric Medical Practice Act of 1987, the Clinical Psychologist Licensing Act, the Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act, the Illinois Athletic Trainers Practice Act, the Dietetic and Nutrition Services Practice Act, the Marriage and Family Therapy Act, the Naprapathic Practice Act, the Respiratory Care Practice Act, the Professional Counselor and Clinical Professional Counselor Licensing Act, the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, I may be subject to license suspension or revocation if I willfully fail to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

I affirm that I have read this statement and have knowledge and understanding of the reporting requirements, which apply to me under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Printed Name of Applicant/Employee

Signature of Applicant/Employee

Date