

<p>Kelsey School Division Box 4700 The Pas, MB R9A 1R4</p> <p>Phone: 623-6421</p>	<p>Code: JHF</p>
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REPORTING PROCEDURE: CHILD ABUSE AND CHILD NEGLECT

Awareness

It is the role of school personnel to recognize the vulnerability of school-age children to abuse, to be alert to any physical signs of abuse, and recognize signs of undue mental or emotional strain on the part of the child. It is a responsibility of the school Division and its principals to institute regular inserviceing of teachers in school to ensure that teachers are aware of the symptoms of abuse, the typical reactions and attitudes of abusing parents, the teacher's role in reporting, and the reporting procedure to be used.

Reporting Procedure

1. All school Division personnel will be required to report any student whom they have reason to believe is in need of protection. This reporting will be done in accordance to Child and Family Services Act legislation, dated June, 1989. Relevant sections shall be sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the above noted Act.
2. Any person who files a report in accordance to the Child & Family Services Act legislation shall also inform their immediate supervisor that a report has been filed.

Prevention

It is an important aspect of the approach to dealing with child abuse and child neglect that the school curriculum incorporate concepts which will be useful to students caught up in such situations. For example, at the elementary level, there should be periodic awareness sessions conducted by teachers to ensure children are aware of dangerous situations, their right to protection from a frightening situation, and that children are provided with sufficient vocabulary to articulate their concerns. The Division's Family Life Program has such concepts incorporated in it. Divisional personal safety programs to enhance the self concept in students such as the Care Kit, Feeling Yes Feeling No Program, Tuning Into Health and Student Match Program are beneficial in that they may prevent the necessity of taking some students into care.

At the senior high level, it is important to assist students to understand child development stages and to help them to develop a knowledge of adequate child rearing and parenting skills to better prepare them to undertake the important responsibility of parenthood. This policy supplements and is in keeping with existing Manitoba Education and Training Legislation.