

To: EBRPSS Employees

From: District Leadership

Date: September 20, 2023

Re: Procedures for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect

## *§1135. Child Abuse\**

*A. Any school employee having reasonable cause to believe that a student has been mentally, physically, or sexually abused shall report these facts to the appropriate authorities.*

*B. Any person making a report in good faith regarding child abuse shall have immunity from civil liability that may be otherwise incurred. (Part CXV. Bulletin 741-Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators) (Louisiana Children's Code Art. 603)*

EBRPSS employees shall take the following steps if abuse/ neglect is suspected: You cannot delegate this responsibility to another person. All persons who suspect child abuse or neglect must make their own report.

1. Call: 1-855-452-5437 (24 Hour Hotline: 1-855-4LA-KIDS)

**If this is a life-threatening emergency, immediately contact your local law enforcement agency**

2. Submit a written report via the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services Mandated Reporting Portal. Link: [https://mr.dcfs.la.gov/c/MR\\_PortalApp.app](https://mr.dcfs.la.gov/c/MR_PortalApp.app)
3. Call the local law enforcement agency assigned to your school/site.\*\*

**Baton Rouge Police Dispatch - (225) 389-2000**

**East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Dispatch - (225) 389-5000**

4. Contact the School Security Office\*\*

**Daytime/ Nighttime Security Dispatch - (225) 226-7690**

\*Refer to Definitions from Louisiana Children's Code Art. 603

\*\*Work with school administration when contacting school security and/or local law enforcement.



**Definitions from Louisiana Children’s Code Art. 603**

**"Abuse"** means any one of the following acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of the child:

(a) The infliction, attempted infliction, or, as a result of inadequate supervision, the allowance of the infliction or attempted infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child by a parent or any other person.

(b) The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person, including but not limited to commercial sexual exploitation of the child.

(c) The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person, or the aiding or toleration by the parent, caretaker, or any other person of the child's involvement in any of the following:

(i) Any sexual act with any other person.

(ii) Pornographic displays.

(iii) Any sexual activity constituting a crime under the laws of this state.

(d) A coerced abortion conducted upon a child.

(e) Female genital mutilation as defined by R.S. 14:43.4 of the child or of a sister of the child.

**"Neglect"** means the refusal or unreasonable failure of a parent or caretaker to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, care, treatment, or counseling for any injury, illness, or condition of the child, as a result of which the child's physical, mental, or emotional health and safety is substantially threatened or impaired. Neglect includes prenatal neglect. Consistent with Article 606(B), the inability of a parent or caretaker to provide for a child due to inadequate financial resources shall not, for that reason alone, be considered neglect. Whenever, in lieu of medical care, a child is being provided treatment in accordance with the tenets of a well-recognized religious method of healing which has a reasonable, proven record of success, the child shall not, for that reason alone, be considered to be neglected or maltreated. However, nothing herein shall prohibit the court from ordering medical services for the child when there is substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.

