

DIOCESE OF DES MOINES
Catholic Schools Policies/Regulations

STAFF PERSONNEL

Mandatory Reports of Child Abuse by a Care Giver

It shall be the policy of the Diocesan Catholic Schools Board that all certified/licensed school employees, who have a reasonable belief that a child under the age of 18 has been abused by a person responsible for the care of the child, shall report the suspected abuse verbally to the Department of Human Services (DHS) within 24 hours, and follow the verbal report with a written report on forms provided within 48 hours.

A Caregiver is defined as parent, guardian, foster parent, relative or other person with whom the child resides, or any person providing care for a child but with whom the child does not reside.

Failure on the part of a mandatory reporter to make a report as required by law may be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including termination.

Each school shall provide a method by which the training, required by law, is given to all mandatory reporters within 6 months of initial employment and every 5 years thereafter.

The school administration and staff shall cooperate fully with DHS personnel in conducting a child abuse investigation. The school is under no obligation to contact the parents or legal guardians of suspected abuse by a caregiver. (232-IAC 68-71)

Policy Adopted: May 19, 1986

Policy Revised: May 19, 2008

Policy Reviewed: January 21, 2019