

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**  
**Catholic Schools Policies/Regulations**

**STAFF PERSONNEL**

**Child Abuse Categories**

In order to provide the greatest possible protection to children under age 18, mandatory reporters, who "believe a child has suffered abuse" must report such to the Iowa Department of Human Services orally within 24 hours and in written form, using the Iowa Department of Human Services Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Form, within 48 hours.

The six categories of child abuse are:

1. Physical abuse
2. Denial of Critical Care (food, nutrition, shelter, adequate clothing, adequate health care, mental health care, emotional needs and proper supervision).
3. Sexual abuse (acts or omission).
4. Mental Injury (ignoring, rejecting, isolating, terrorizing, corruption, verbal assaults and over-pressuring).
5. Child prostitution (allow, permit or encourage the child to engage in sex acts).
6. Presence of illegal drugs in the child's body as a direct and foreseeable consequence of the acts or omissions of the person responsible for the care of the child.

It is the responsibility of the Iowa Department of Human Services to determine abuse and/or neglect. Therefore Diocesan school personnel should not investigate any allegations of child abuse by caregivers. (Abuse by a school employee is covered in a separate policy.) All school administrators must be informed of any reports being made by teachers and staff to the Iowa Department of Human Services on child abuse by a caregiver. (441-IAC 9.2)

Regulation Adopted: May 19, 1986

Regulation Revised: May 19, 2008

Regulation Reviewed: January 21, 2019