

IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD POLICY MANUAL

- (K) Causing, permitting, encouraging, engaging in, or allowing a sexual performance by a child as defined by Section 43.25, Penal Code;
- (L) Knowingly causing, permitting, encouraging, engaging in, or allowing a child to be trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under Section 20A.02(a)(5), (6), (7), or (8), Penal Code, or the failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent a child from being trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under any of those sections; or
- (M) Forcing or coercing a child to enter into a marriage.

b)





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shall report the information immediately to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

A person filing a report or testifying or otherwise participating in any judicial proceeding arising from a petition, report, or investigation is immune from civil or criminal liability on account of his or her petition, report, testimony, or participation, unless the person acted in bad faith or with a malicious purpose. *Human Resources Code 48.051, .054.*

e)

Any professional who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected shall make a report as required by law. The report must be made within 48 hours after the professional first has reasonable cause to believe abuse or neglect. A professional may not delegate to or rely on another person to make the report.

facility licensed, certified, or operated by the state and who, in the normal course of official duties or duties for which a license or certification is required, has direct contact with children. The term includes teachers, nurses, doctors, day-care employees, employees of a clinic or health care facility that provides reproductive services, and juvenile probation, detention or correctional officers. *Family Code 261.101(b).*

f)

A person or professional shall make a report in the manner required above if the person or professional has reasonable cause to believe that an adult was a victim of abuse or neglect as a child and the person or professional determines in good faith that disclosure of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of another child or an elderly person or person with a disability. *Family Code 261.101(b-1).*

g)

An employee may not use the refusal of a parent, guardian, or managing or possessory conservator of a child to administer or consent to the administration of a psychotropic medication to a child, or to consent to any other psychiatric or psychological treatment of a child, as the sole basis for making a report of neglect of the child unless the refusal to consent:

1. Presents a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or bodily injury to the child; or
2. Has resulted in an observable and material impairment to the growth, development, or functioning of the child.

Education Code 26.0091; Family Code 261.111.



Sec. 3. CONTENTS OF REPORT

or has died of abuse or neglect. The person making the report shall identify, if known:

1. The name and address of the child;
2. The name and address of the person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child;
3. The facts that caused the individual to believe the child has been abused or neglected and the source of the information;
4. _____ mber;
5. _____) home address or, (ii) if the individual is a professional as defined by _____
6. Any other pertinent information concerning the alleged or suspected abuse or neglect.

Family Code 261.102, .104.

Sec. 4. ENTITIES TO WHOM REPORTS MUST BE MADE REPORTED

If the alleged or suspected abuse or neglect involves a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child, the report must be made to the DFPS, unless the report is made under item 3, below, or the report involves a juvenile justice program or facility.

All other reports shall be made to:

1. Any local or state law enforcement agency;
2. The DFPS, including a local office where available;
3. The state agency that operates, licenses, certifies, or registers the facility in which the alleged abuse or neglect occurred; or
4. The agency designated by the court to be responsible for the protection of children.

Family Code 261.103(a); 19 TAC 61.1051(a)(1).

Sec. 5. IMMUNITIES

A person acting in good faith who reports or assists in the investigation of a report of alleged child abuse or neglect or who testifies or otherwise participates in a judicial proceeding arising from a report, petition, or investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. *Family Code 261.106(a).*

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Sec. 6. CRIMINAL OFFENSES

a)

A person commits a Class A misdemeanor if he or she has reasonable physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect and knowingly fails to report it as provided by law. Failure to report child abuse or neglect violates addressed in 19 TAC 249. *Family Code 261.109; 19 TAC 61.1051(b)(2)(A).*

b)

A person commits an offense if, with the intent to deceive, the person knowingly makes a report of abuse and neglect that is false. The offense is a state jail felony, except that it is a felony of the third degree if the person has previously been convicted of the offense. *Family Code 261.107(a).*

c)

A school employee who coerces another into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect to a law enforcement agency may be subject to Class C misdemeanor penalties. *Penal Code 39.06.*

Sec. 7. POTENTIAL SBEC PENALTIES

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) may take action as allowed under 19 TAC 249.15(a) based on satisfactory evidence that a person has failed to report or has hindered the reporting of child abuse as required under Family Code 261.001, or has failed to notify the SBEC or the Superintendent or designee under the circumstances and in the manner required by Education Code 21.006 and 19 TAC 249.14(d)-(f). *19 TAC 249.15(b)(4)*



Sec. 9. INVESTIGATIONS

a)

If the DFPS initiates an investigation and determines that the abuse or neglect involves an IDEA Public Schools employee, and that the child is a student at IDEA Public Schools, the department shall orally notify the Superintendent. *Family Code 261.105(d)*.

The DFPS shall, upon request, send a written report of its investigation, as appropriate, to the Principal, unless the Principal is alleged to have committed the abuse or neglect, to the Board, and to the Superintendent. *Family Code 261.406(b)*.

b)

The investigating agency shall be permitted to interview the child at any reasonable time and place, school. *Family Code 261.302(b)*.

c)

A person may not interfere with an investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect conducted by the DFPS. *Family Code 261.303(a)*.

A photograph, videotape, audiotape, or other audio or visual recording, depiction, or documentation of a child that is made by DFPS in the course of an inspection or investigation is confidential, is not subject to release under the Texas Public Information Act, and may be released only as required by state or federal law or rules adopted by the DFPS. *Human Resources Code 42.004*.

Sec. 10. ANNUAL REVIEW

The Board shall annually review policies for reporting child abuse and neglect. The policies shall follow the requirements of Family Code Chapter 261, 19 TAC 61.1051, and 40 TAC Chapter 700 with respect to investigations by DFPS.

Sec. 11. VIOLATIONS OF POLICY

Any



Sec. 17. CERTIFICATION

