

## CURRENT POLICY

### CHILD ABUSE REPORTING <Ratified prior to 2004>

**Rationale:** To assure that State mandates regarding child abuse reporting guidelines are followed.

**Policy:**

1.0 The Pinnacle has established procedures for reporting suspected abuse to the specified social service agency and/or law enforcement agency in compliance with the provisions of the "Child Protection Act of 1987". In addition, The Pinnacle will implement periodic in-service programs for all school personnel about the recognition and reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect, and other related issues as provided by law.

2.0 The confidentiality of reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be preserved in accordance with statute.

## Proposed Policy

### Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy <Ratified >

**Rationale for Policy Revision:** The revised policy provides definitions of abuse and neglect along with specifics for reporting.

**Rationale:** To assure that State mandates regarding child abuse reporting guidelines are followed.

#### **1.0 Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Physical Abuse - Citation: Rev. Stat. 10-1-103**

- Physical abuse includes the act that threatens the health of a child in one of the following categories: skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, failure to thrive, burns, and fractures of any bone, subdural hematoma, or soft tissue swelling, all of which cannot be justifiably explained.
- Abuse also can be defined by manufacturing a controlled substance in the presence of a child, on the premises where a child is found, or where a child resides.

**Neglect – Citation - Rev. Stat. 10-1-103; 19-3-102**

- Neglect includes any case in which a child is in need of services because the child's parent has failed to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision that a prudent parent would take.

**Sexual Abuse/ Exploitation- Citation: Rev. Stat 10-1-103**

- Sexual abuse occurs when a child is subject to sexual assault or molestation, sexual exploitation, or prostitution.

**Emotional Abuse - Citation: Rev. Stat 10-1-103**

- Emotional abuse means an identifiable and substantial impairment or a substantial risk of impairment of the child's intellectual or psychological functioning or development.

**Abandonment - Citation: Rev. Stat 10-3-102**

- A child is "neglected" or "dependent" if a parent, guardian, or legal custodian has abandoned the child.

## **2.0 Abuse/Neglect Reporting**

In compliance with the "Child Protection Act of 1987" (Professionals Required to Report, Rev. Stat. 19-3-304) all Pinnacle employees are mandated reporters and shall report to all known or suspected abuse or neglect.

2.1 All Pinnacle employees, as mandated reporters, shall report all known or suspected abuse or neglect to Social Services the same day the suspected or known abuse is found. Social Services reporting forms are available in the staff lounge or can be obtained through any Pinnacle mental health staff member. Pinnacle staff members will consult with the School Counselor when they are unsure or needs clarification on signs and/or symptoms of suspected or known abuse.

2.2 A written Social Services report form must be filled out by the mandated reporter at the time of or before the report to Social Services is made.

1. The original, written Social Services report form must be given to the grade level School Counselor the same day the report is made.
2. The School Nurse will be contacted by the School Counselor when there are visible signs of abuse to provide treatment (if necessary) and to document visible signs.
3. If clear and imminent danger or harm is suspected or known, the School Counselor, in collaboration with the grade level Administrator, will contact the local police.
4. School Counselors will keep one copy of the written social services report in the student's file and place the original in the Social Services Report file.
5. School Counselors will notify the grade level administrator that a report was made to Social Services.
6. A school administrator, or designee, will be present in any circumstance in which police are involved.

2.3 In the event that a Pinnacle staff member witnesses abuse, the following actions will be taken:

***Inside School Property***

- Ensure child safety
- Notify an administrator immediately
- Follow "Procedures for Reporting Abuse or Neglect"

***Outside School Property***

- Obtain any identifying information of “abuser” or vehicle, including driver’s license tag number.
- If the “abuser” leaves the premise, contact the local police department.
- Follow “Procedures for Reporting Abuse and Neglect.”

**3.0 Training**

The Pinnacle will provide in-service trainings to all employees about recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect prior to the beginning prior each academic year.

**4.0 Confidentiality of Records - Rev. Stat. 19-1-307**

In accordance with State Law (Confidentiality of Records, Rev. Stat. 19-1-307), reports of child abuse or neglect and the name and address of any mandated reporter, or any other identifying information contained in such reports shall remain confidential.


4.1 If parent or guardian inquires about a Child Protective Services report or visit on the school premises from CPS, they should be given the number to contact Social Services. The school should never discuss who made the report nor should parents be contacted when a report is made. If a parent does not inquire about a Child Protective Services report or visit, they will not be notified.

Adams County Child Protective Services: 303-412-5212

**5.0 Failure to Report – Rev. Stat 19-3-304(4)**

Any mandatory reporter who willfully fails to report, as required by Rev. Stat 19-3-304(1), commits a class 3 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided by law and shall be liable for damages proximately caused.

5.1 Any mandated reporter who willfully fails to report to CPS and/or the school counselor will be subject to an investigation by Pinnacle Human Services and will be dealt with accordingly.

Executive Director  Meeting Date 2/22/16

Board President 

BW  JT  MC  CB  MM 

Updated on 2/22/2016