

## **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE / CHILD PROTECTION**

All licensed school employees shall be required to complete training in the detection and reporting of child abuse and neglect and substance abuse. This requirement shall be completed within the licensed school employee's first year of employment by a school district.

Every person, including a schoolteacher or a school official who has information that is not privileged as a matter of law, who *knows or has a reasonable suspicion* that a child is an abused or a neglected child shall report the matter immediately to:

- New Mexico Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-797-3260);
- a local law enforcement agency;
- the department office in the county where the child resides; or
- a tribal law enforcement or social services agency for any Indian child residing in Indian country.

The report shall contain the following information:

- The names and addresses of the minor, the parents, or the person or persons having custody of such minor, if known.
- The minor's age and the nature and extent of any injuries or physical neglect, including any evidence of previous injuries or physical neglect.
- Any other information that such person believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injury or physical neglect.

The school administrator should be informed, and the "Agency Referral Form and Procedure" should be used in order to have documentation and follow up.

A school administrator and/or their designee may permit a member of a law enforcement agency or an employee of the Human Services Department to interview the child with respect to a report without the permission of the child's parent, guardian or custodian.

A person who fails to report abuse as provided in 32A-4-3 NMSA 1978 is guilty of a misdemeanor. A person failing, neglecting or refusing to report a suspected case of child abuse, neglect or starving as provided in 9 N.N.C. 1123 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

**GADSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Adopted:* date of manual adoption

**LEGAL REF.:** 22-10A-32 NMSA (1978)  
22-5-4.2 NMSA (1978)  
32A-4-2 NMSA (1978)  
32A-4-3 NMSA (1978)

**CROSS REF.:** GBEB - Staff Conduct  
GBEBB - Staff Conduct With Students  
JKA - Corporal Punishment