

I. PURPOSE

Athlos Academy believes that the daily contact of school personnel with children places them in a unique position to identify suspected cases of child maltreatment. This policy outlines the early protective measures towards allegations of child abuse and neglect.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Mandatory Reporting:** Athlos Academy employees are required to report instances of child neglect or physical or sexual abuse when the employee has a “reasonable suspicion” that child maltreatment has occurred.
- B. **Reasonable Suspicion:** Arises when the facts surrounding the incident or suspicion could cause another person in the same situation to suspect child abuse or neglect.

III. POLICY

- A. All school employees are mandated reporters of child maltreatment and are obligated to take immediate action.
- B. Any employee who knows or reasonably suspects a child has been the victim of child neglect, or physical or sexual abuse shall immediately report the instance to the Lead School Administrator or the school counselor
- C. The Lead School Administrator or school counselor shall relay the report to a local welfare agency or law enforcement.
- D. A written report, by the mandated reporter, shall be submitted to either the Lead School Administrator or the school counselor within thirty-six (36) hour of the initial oral report, identifying:
 - 1. The child;
 - 2. Any person believed to be responsible for the neglect or abuse of the child if the person is identified;
 - 3. The nature and extent of the maltreatment; and
 - 4. The name and address of the reporter.

Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse

- E. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is responsible for assessing or investigating allegations of child maltreatment in schools.
- F. The child's parent/guardian(s) may **not** be contacted.
 - 1. If a child is released to a law enforcement officer or a local welfare agent, school administration and the agent shall **not** notify the parent/guardian(s).
- G. At the time of hire, every employee at Athlos Academy must sign the *Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse or Neglect Form* which shall remain in effect for the duration of employment.

Legal References:

[Minn. Stat. § 626.556 et seq.](#)

Related Documents:

[Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse Form](#)