



# Georgia Department of Education

## Policies and Procedures

Policy Title:	<i>Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect, State Schools</i>		
Policy Number:	<i>SS-3005 Descriptor Code-JGI</i>		
Release Date:	<i>09-01-02</i>	Last Revised:	<i>11-22-03</i>

### **Purpose**

To describe the responsibility of state employees to report suspected child abuse/neglect.

### **Applicability**

This policy applies to all employees of the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Georgia Academy for the Blind, and Georgia School for the Deaf.

### **Definitions**

*Child Abuse:* Physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by a parent or caretaker other than by accidental means. This term includes acts of neglect, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and deprivation. Child abuse and neglect can also mean physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 years caused by a person responsible for the child's health or welfare under circumstances indicating that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened.

### **Policy**

The State Schools will provide for the protection of children whose health and welfare are adversely affected and further threatened by the conduct of those responsible for their care and protection. State School personnel having reasonable cause to believe a family member, caretaker, staff member or any other adult has abused a child, shall report that abuse to child protective services.

The "Official Code of Georgia Child Abuse or Neglect Act" (Sections 16-10-50 and 19-7-5) mandates persons working in certain professions of sustained contact with children report suspected child abuse/neglect to protective services. Agencies and individuals making a report in accordance with the state law or participating in a resulting judicial proceeding is presumed to be acting in good faith and, in doing so, is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be imposed.

**Procedures**

1. Employees of the State Schools shall immediately notify the School Director or designee of any cases of suspected child abuse.
2. The School Director or designee shall immediately report suspected child abuse to the appropriate child protective agency.
3. Each State School will conduct annual training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse.
4. Specific school-based guidelines outlining the procedure for reporting child abuse, shall be published and disseminated to State School employees at the start of each school year.

**Authority and/or  
Cross-Reference**

- O.C.G.A. 19-7-5