

PVCS Mandated Reporter Training

For Staff, Faculty, and Volunteers

Idaho Statutes

- Title 16: Juvenile Proceedings
- Chapter 16 of Title 16: Child Protective Act
 - Entire PDF:
 - <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/statutesrules/idstat/Title16/T16CH16.pdf>
- §16-1605: Reporting of **Abuse, Abandonment, or Neglect**

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

Idaho Code §16-1605 requires all employees and volunteers who work with children to report suspected abuse, abandonment, or neglect of children.

- Must have a **reasonable cause** to believe that a child has been abused
- **Immunity** from civil or criminal liability if the report of suspected child abuse is made in good faith (I.C. §16-1606)
- Guilty of a misdemeanor if any mandated reporter knowingly and willfully fails to report a case of suspected child abuse (I.C. §1607)

Five Types of Abuse

- Intentional physical injury inflicted upon a child
- Neglect or exploitation of a child
- Endangering a child
- Sexual abuse of a child
- Sexual exploitation of a child

Indicators of Physical Abuse

- Bite marks
- Patterned bruises or bruises in the shape of items
- Welts
- Scratches
- Patterned and immersion burns
- Unexplained fractures/dislocations
- Bald spots on the scalp

Child Endangerment

- When a person intentionally allows a child under the age of 18 to witness, or has knowledge that such a child has witnessed, the commission of a forcible felony, battery, or family violence battery
- Willfully causing or permitting any child to be place in such situation that its person or health is endangered (I.C. §18-1501)

Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- Difficulty sitting or walking
- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Play behavior with sexual overtones
- Advanced knowledge of sexual activity
- Sudden fear of people, places, or specific activities
- Sudden change in patterns of behavior or socialization

Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value, or promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons
- Child treated as a commercial, sexual object
- Includes
 - Street prostitution, pornography, erotic/nude massage, escort services, gang based prostitution, inter-familial pimping, internet based exploitation (pictures, videos, advertisements)

Child Abandonment

- I.C. §16-602 The failure of the parent to maintain a normal parental relationship with his child including, but not limited to, reasonable support or regular personal contact. Failure to maintain this relationship without just cause for a period of one (1) year shall constitute prima facie evidence of abandonment.

Indicators of Neglect*

- Hoarding or begging for food
- Poor hygiene (unclean or unkempt)
- Inappropriate clothing for the weather
- Unmet medical, emotional, or mental health needs

***Neglect is not an isolated incident. It is a pattern of unmet needs over a period of time. When considering suspected neglect, we should be sensitive that not all families have the same access or knowledge of resources.**

Neglect, continued

- Inadequate supervision: Guidelines based on maturity of the child
 - Age 8 years and younger should never be left alone
 - Ages 9-12, based on maturity and ability, may be left alone for brief periods (less than 2 hours)
 - Age 13 and older, based on maturity and ability, may be left alone and may act as a babysitter for up to 12 hours

Responding

- What to do if a child discloses abuse
 - Stay calm
 - Do **not** act visually upset or shaken; doing so may cause a child to backtrack or change their story
 - Do **not** make any promises to the child (e.g. do not promise to keep a secret)
 - Do **not** contact parents
 - **DO REPORT**

Procedure for Reporting

- Report any suspicion of abuse to the school administrator (principal) **IMMEDIATELY**. I.C. §16-1605 mandates report within 24 hours. **Do Not Wait.**
- Keep all information about child(ren) confidential. Do **NOT** discuss the incident with other teacher, parents, volunteers.
- Formal investigations are conducted by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and/or local law enforcement agency.

Dept. of Health and Welfare

Report Abuse

To report suspected child abuse, neglect or
abandonment call:

Statewide: 1-855-552-KIDS (5437)

Treasure Valley: 208-334-KIDS (5437)

Considerations for School Volunteers

- Treat children with dignity and respect
- Maintain confidentiality
- Maintain appropriate boundaries within school and outside of school (**including social networking**)
- Avoid situations that can be misinterpreted as inappropriate
- **ONLY ASSIST WITHIN THE TIER TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED**

PVCS Tiered Volunteer System

Tier 1

Mostly support school outside of regular school hours. Very limited interaction with students, never in direct instructional setting.

Tier 2

All of Tier 1, plus may assist during school hours including with students in classrooms. May **not** have direct supervision of children without faculty/staff present.

Tier 3

All of Tiers 1 and 2, plus allowed to support field trips. Parental consent needed if volunteers are supervising/shuttling students without staff/faculty present.

Tiered Volunteer Requirements

Tier 1

- Volunteer Application
- Disclosure Statement

Tier 2

- Volunteer Application
- Disclosure Statement
- Mandated Reporter Training (MRT)
- MRT Signature Sheet

Tier 3

- Volunteer Application
- Disclosure Statement
- Mandated Reporter Training
- MRT Signature Sheet
- Background Investigation Check (BIC)



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Mandated Reporter Training Signature Sheet

Idaho's Child Protective Act, as outlined in Idaho Code §16-1605, mandates all professionals working with children, including school employees and school volunteers, report any and all instances of suspected child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. As mandated reporters, all Peace Valley Charter School volunteers must undergo Mandated Reporter Training covering:

1. The legal responsibility to report
2. How to identify suspected abuse, abandonment, and neglect
3. How to respond and to whom to report

By signing this document, I certify that I have read the PVCS Mandated Reporter Training PowerPoint presentation. I recognize that as a school volunteer, I am mandated by Idaho law to report suspected abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the school administrator immediately, and that failure to report within twenty-four (24) hours is a misdemeanor. I understand that per I.C. §16-1606, if I make a good faith report based on reasonable suspicion, I have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

I also understand that I must maintain absolute confidentiality of the child's identity and will not share any identifying information with other teachers, parents, or volunteers. If an investigation is conducted, I certify that I will cooperate fully with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and local law enforcement agencies. If I have any questions about the training or mandated reporting, I will contact the school administrator, Mr. Andrew Ross.

Volunteer (print)

Date

Signature

Administrator (print)

Date

Signature

All Tier 2 and Tier 3 volunteers must sign the Mandated Reporter Training Signature Sheet certifying they have read this PowerPoint and agree to the requirements therein.

Mandated Reporting Wrap-up

- Thank you for your service!
- If you have any questions about the information provided, please contact Andrew Ross, Haley McMurray, or Hannah Max.
- Please be sure to sign the form indicating you have viewed this presentation and are aware of your legal responsibilities.