

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board

POLICY TITLE: **Child Abuse Policy**

Approved: June 8, 1999

Amended: Oct. 18, 2017

POLICY NO: **7000**

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POLICY

Reverencing the dignity of each person as a Child of God is one of our key values. The prevention of Child Abuse is of paramount importance in our desire to develop the full potential of each child.

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board recognizes that in order to develop their full potential, all children must live in a safe environment free from abuse, neglect or fear.

All Board employees have a moral and legal responsibility to value and respect these rights so each child can grow and develop freely. The related ***Procedural Guidelines*** and **Related Forms** are available to employees to assist them in protecting each child in their care.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

Therefore, every employee/representative of the Board who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is in need of protection as described in the Child and Family Services Act;

- Has suffered physical harm.
- There is a substantial risk that the child will suffer physical harm.
- Has been sexually molested or sexually assaulted.
- There is a substantial risk that the child will be sexually molested or sexually exploited.
- Has suffered emotional harm.
- There is a substantial risk that the child will suffer emotional harm.

SHALL FORTHWITH REPORT the suspicion and information on which it is based to the applicable Child Protection Agency (See Related Forms) and/or the Police Services (where appropriate), and then to the principal and/or supervisor.

It is important to note that the reporting requirement for professionals (including teachers and counsellors) is a broader requirement than for the general public.

"(3) Despite the provisions of any other Act, a person referred to in subsection (4) who, in the course of his or her professional or official duties, has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be suffering or may have suffered abuse shall forthwith report the suspicion and the information on which it is based to a society."

The Board insists on reporting (according to this policy and the accompanying procedures), and endorses the need to ensure that the child making a disclosure of abuse is supported and safe.

It is also the policy of the Board, where the alleged abuser is an employee/representative of the Board, to provide and implement procedures to be followed in the case of the alleged abuse of the pupil.

Note: A report indicating all allegations of abuse against employees shall be made quarterly to the board, as well as at the first board meeting after which an allegation has been made.

ADOPTED: Regular Meeting of the Board June 8, 1999
Motion B-108

AMENDED: Regular Meeting of the Board September 3, 2003
Motion B-93

AMENDED: Regular Meeting of the Board April 15, 2009
Motion B-30

AMENDED: Regular Meeting of the Board October 18, 2017
Motion B-184

DISTRIBUTION:

- i) Trustees
 - ii) Administration
 - iii) Principals
 - iv) Teaching Personnel
 - v) Non-Teaching Staff
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