Administrative Procedure 316

Students

CHILD PROTECTION

Background

The Board believes that children have a right to be safe and adequately cared for at school, at home, and in the community. As such, the school has a responsibility to safeguard children from injury, abuse, and neglect and work in cooperation with Alberta Children's Services authorities, law enforcement agencies, Alberta Health Services, and other agencies as needed in order to fulfill this responsibility.

Definitions

"Physical injury": For the purposes of this policy, a child is physically injured if there is substantial and observable injury to any part of the child's body as a result of the non-accidental application of force or an agent to the child's body that is evidenced by a laceration, a contusion, an abrasion, a scar, a fracture or other bony injury, a dislocation, a sprain, hemorrhaging, the rupture of viscus, a burn, a scald, frostbite, loss or alteration of consciousness or physiological functioning or loss of hair or teeth.

"Sexual abuse": A child is sexually abused if the child is inappropriately exposed or subjected to sexual contact, activity or behavior including prostitution related activities. Exposing children to child pornography or luring children through the Internet are forms of sexual abuse.

"Emotional injury": A child is emotionally injured if there is impairment of the child's mental or emotional functioning or development, and if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the emotional injury is the result of:

- Severe emotional, social, cognitive or physiological neglect;
- Deprivation of affection or cognitive stimulation;
- Exposure to domestic violence or severe domestic disharmony;
- Inappropriate criticism, threats, humiliation, accusations or expectations of or toward the child;
- The mental or emotional condition of the guardian of the child or of anyone living in the same residence as the child; and

- Chronic alcohol or drug abuse by the guardian or by anyone living in the same residence as the child.

"Neglect": A child is neglected if the guardian:

- Is unable or unwilling to provide the child with the necessities of life.
- Is unable or unwilling to obtain for the child, or to permit the child to receive, essential medical, surgical or other remedial treatment that is necessary for the health or well-being of the child.
- Is unable or unwilling to provide the child with adequate care of supervision.

Procedures

1. The Superintendent or designate is responsible for ensuring that all members of the school staff are aware of the obligations to report under the terms of the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act.
2. According to the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act, a child needs intervention if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the safety, security or development of the child is endangered because of any of the following:
   2.1. the child has been abandoned or lost;
   2.2. the guardian of the child is dead and the child has no other guardian;
   2.3. the child is neglected by the guardian;
   2.4. the child has been or there is substantial risk that the child will be physically injured or sexually abused by the guardian of the child;
   2.5. the guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from physical injury or sexual abuse;
   2.6. the child has been emotionally injured by the guardian of the child;
   2.7. the guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from emotional injury;
   2.8. the guardian of the child has subjected the child to or is unable or unwilling to protect the child from cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

Legal Duty to Report

1. A staff member who has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a child needs intervention shall immediately report the matter, by telephone, to an intake worker with Alberta Children's Services.
2. The staff member shall prepare a written note at this time that includes:
    2.1. The reasons giving rise to the report, including documentation of any relevant statements made by the child.
    2.2. The name of the staff member submitting the report.
    2.3. The name of the intake worker receiving the report.
    2.4. The time and date that the report was made.
3. The staff member's written note shall remain in the possession of the reporting staff member and shall be kept in a secure, confidential file.
4. The staff member shall then immediately inform the Principal of the report and the circumstances giving rise to it. No investigation is to be carried out by school personnel at this or any other time.
5. At the completion of the investigation and disposition of the case the staff member and principal shall meet to consider strategies that may be implemented to provide support and assistance to the child.

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