

LEONARDO DA VINCI HEALTH SCIENCES CHARTER SCHOOL (LdVCS)

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING**

**I. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Any LdVCS employee, child care custodian, health practitioner, or employee of the child protective agency (CPA) who has knowledge of or has observed a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his other employment whom he or she reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse shall report such suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and shall prepare and send a written report or fax report there of within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.
- Any LdVCS employee, child care custodian, health practitioner, or employee of a child protective agency who has knowledge of or who reasonably suspects that mental suffering has been inflicted on a child or its emotional well-being is endangered in any other way, may report such suspected instances of child abuse to a child protective agency. Infliction of willful and unjustifiable mental suffering must be reported.
- No LdVCS employee, child care custodian or health practitioner reporting a suspected instance of child abuse in good faith shall be civilly or criminally liable for any report required or authorized by this article (California Penal Code Article 2.5). Any other person reporting an instance of child abuse shall not incur civil or criminal liability as a result of any report authorized by this section unless it can be proved that a false report was made and the person knew or should have known that the report was false.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

- “Child care custodian” means a teacher, administrative officer, supervisor of child welfare and attendance, or certificated pupil personnel employee of any public or private school; an administrator of a public or private day camp; a licensee, and administrator, or an employee of a community care facility licensed to care for children; head start teacher, a licensing worker or licensing evaluator, public assistance worker; an employee of a child care institution including, but not limited to foster parents, group home personnel and personnel or residential care facilities; a social worker or a probation officer or any person who is an administrator or presenter or, or a counselor in, a child abuse presentation program in any public or private school.
- “Health practitioner” means a physician and surgeon, psychiatrist, psychologist, dentist, resident, intern, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, dental hygienist, marriage, family, and child counselor, or any other person who is currently licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code, any emergency medical technician I or II, paramedic, a person certified pursuant to Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797) of the Health and Safety Code, a psychological assistant registered pursuant to Section 2913 of the Business and Professions Code, a marriage, family and child counselor trainee, as defined in subdivision ( c ) of Section 49803 of the Business and Professions Code and unlicensed marriage, family and child

counselor intern registered under Section 4980.44 of the Business and Professions Code, a state or county public health employee who treats a minor for venereal disease or any other condition, a coroner, or a religious practitioner who diagnoses, examines, or treats children.

- “Child protective agency” (CPA) means a police or sheriff’s department, a county probation department, or a county welfare department.

For more information on the Child Abuse Reporting laws, see California Penal Code, Section 11164-11174.3, available at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=pen&group=11001-12000&file=11164-11174.3>.

- As stated in the California Penal Code, Section 11164-11174.3, “Mandated reporters shall make an initial report to the agency immediately or as soon as is practicably possible by telephone and the mandated reporter shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically submit a written follow-up report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.”

#### Instructions for filing a Suspected Child Abuse Report

1. Call the Child Abuse Hotline first (1-800-344-6000 or 858-560-2191) to make a verbal report. Please be sure to get the name of the hotline worker. Within 36 hours after providing the verbal report, follow up with a written or faxed report. (Please note that CPS does not currently have the capacity to accept electronic e-mail submissions in SD County).
2. The correct form for either the written or fax follow-up report is DOJ SS8572 (available at [http://www.ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss\\_8572.pdf](http://www.ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf)). You may print this form and handwrite the information or save a copy of the form to your computer and type directly into the boxes. To move from one box to another, press the tab key.
3. Please complete every space on the SS8572 form. If you do not know certain requested information, write unknown.
4. Please type or print legibly in black ink to avoid a time consuming callback.
5. “Narrative” -Please give detailed information. If you have additional information beyond what you have given by phone, please indicate this on the written report. If necessary, please continue your narrative on an additional sheet of paper, identifying the minor and indicating it is page 2 of the referral.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF FAX SS8572 FORM AFTER HOTLINE CALL HAS BEEN PLACED:

1. Fax form to SD County Health and Human Services Agency/ CPS (858)-694-5240, (858)-694-5241, or 858-694-5725 SDHHS will cross reference with SD Police.

2. Keep the original in a confidential file in the mail office.

OR

DISTRIBUTION OF WRITTEN SS8572 FORM AFTER HOTLINE CALL HAS BEEN PLACED:

1. Send Original to SD County Health and Human Services Agency/CPS, 6950 Levant St. SD, CA 92111

2. Send a copy to SD Police Department, (MS) 719, Child Abuse Team, 1401 Broadway, SD, CA 92101

3. Keep a copy in a confidential file in the counselor's office

*Note: Suspected Child Abuse Reports are never placed in the student's cumulative record or documented in the student's health record.*

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