

## REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

It is the policy of SAU #64, the Wakefield School District, to comply with the requirements of RSA 169-C in reporting suspected child abuse and neglect. Further, it is the policy of the Wakefield Schools to cooperate with the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth and Families child protection social workers and law enforcement agencies in the course of investigations into alleged child abuse or neglect as outlined in RSA 169-C.

1. All suspected child abuse/neglect cases shall be reported to a four member committee, made up of a teacher, school nurse, guidance counselor and principal. The committee will convene as soon as feasible to make a decision as to whether a report needs to be made to DCYF. In an emergency situation, the guidance counselor will make the referral.
2. If the committee's decision is not acceptable to the reporting person, he/she may report it to DCYF.
3. A spokesperson from the committee shall make an oral report to the appropriate division of welfare district office.
4. Immunity from Liability: School personnel, who in good faith make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, have immunity from any liabilities, civil or criminal. The good faith of the reporter is presumed (see RSA 169-C:31).
5. The school will request DCYF to maintain anonymity with respect to the family being reported.

Such a report shall, if known, contain the name and address of the child suspected of being neglected or abused and the person responsible for the child's welfare, the specific information indicating neglect or the nature and extent of the child's injuries (including any evidence of previous injuries), the identity of the person or persons suspected of being responsible for such neglect or abuse, and any other information that might be helpful in establishing neglect or abuse or that may be required by the Division of Children Youth and Family Services.

Staff training is recommended at the building level on an annual basis.

**Statutory References:**

RSA 169-C:29

RSA 169-C:30

RSA 169-C:34 III

RSA 169-C:31

**Mrs. Connie Twombly, Chairperson**  
**Mrs. Ann Glidden**  
**Mr. Joseph Fleck**  
**Mrs. Peggy Richards**  
**Mr. Brad Daudelin**

**Adopted by the Board: 7 July 1995**  
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