

Alaska Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting Law

Sec.47.17.020. Persons required to report.

(a) The following persons who, in the performance of their occupational duties, or with respect to (8) of this subsection, in the performance of their appointed duties, have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of child abuse or neglect shall immediately report the harm to the nearest office of the department:

- (1) practitioners of the healing arts;
- (2) school teachers and school administrative staff members of public and private schools;
- (3) peace officers, and officers of the Department of Corrections;
- (4) administrative officers of institutions;
- (5) child care providers;
- (6) paid employees of domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and crisis intervention and prevention programs as defined in AS18.66.990;
- (7) paid employees of an organization that provides counseling or treatment to individuals seeking to control their use of drugs or alcohol;
- (8) members of a child fatality review team established under AS 12.65.015(e) or 12.65.120 or the multidisciplinary child protection team created under AS 47.14.300.

Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect

Board policy 474.1 Reporting

Employees of the District are required by law to report to the nearest office of the Department of Health and Social Services instances where in the performances of their professional duties, they have cause to believe that a child has suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect. (A.S. 47.17.010 and 020)

In order to protect children, other district employees, even though not required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect, are required to report to their supervisor or principal situations where they have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect. The supervisor or principal shall report to Office of Children's Services.

Reports must be made by telephone to (907) 269-4000, followed by a written report *faxed* to (907) 269-3901 to the OCS whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered abuse or neglect.

Forward inquires or complaints to:

Equal Employment Opportunity Director

ASD Education Center
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504-3135

Phone: (907) 742-4132

Fax: (907) 742-4226

www.asdk12.org

EEO # 016

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Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

Crossing the Line

Guidelines for Appropriate Adult/Student Boundaries

Board policy 920

- a. Employees of the Anchorage School District are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner when dealing with students. Appropriate adult/student boundaries are crucial to the success, well being, and safety of students.
- b. All employees are expected to be professional in their attitude and behavior toward students, parents, and fellow workers and to abide by the **Code of Ethics** of the Education Profession adopted by the Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) and the **Municipality of Anchorage Code of Ethics**.

Guidelines for Appropriate Interactions:

1. Exercise good judgment and be sensitive to individual and cultural differences.
2. Understand the disparity of power that exists between students and adults.
3. Understand that adults hold a position of trust.
4. Develop clear routines, processes and procedures that have clear boundaries for acceptable and professional interactions.
5. Work with students in highly visible environments, except as may be required to safeguard student privacy or confidentiality.
6. Have another adult present when attending to the personal needs of students.
7. Compliment or commend students without hugging or touching.
8. To avoid potentially threatening situations, clarify engagement procedures with your supervisor.
9. Immediately report to your supervisor any situation that could potentially cross appropriate boundaries.
10. Get parental and district approval regarding all activities including activities off school property.
11. Help students understand and maintain appropriate personal and professional boundaries and let students know when they are overstepping these boundaries.
12. Model appropriate professional behavior. (PTPC Code of Ethics of the Education Profession)
13. Report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse to an administrator.

14. Not abuse their position of trust.
15. Not use their relationship with students to meet their own needs instead of the needs of the student.
16. Understand that regardless of the position they hold, all staff is at-risk for allegations of professional misconduct. However, those who are most at-risk are often described by students, parents and colleagues as popular, effective, actively involved with extra-curricular activities and have frequent one-to-one contact with students.
17. Be aware that the following risk-factors may lead to a blurring of appropriate adult/student boundaries:
 - Low self-esteem.
 - Isolation.
 - A need for authority.
 - A pattern of repeated victimization.
 - Difficulties with personal relationships.
 - Initiating any physical contact.

Avoid the following:

- Becoming too personally involved with students.
- Meeting with or seeing students in private or in non-school settings.
- Writing or exchanging notes, letters or emails with students.
- Serving as a confidant, friend or surrogate parent to a student.
- Giving gifts or money to students.
- Inviting students to your home.
- Having students stay overnight in your home.
- Interfering with parental rights and decisions.
- Giving students rides in your car.
- Being overly attentive to any student.
- Being alone with a student in other than a work-related or emergency situation.
- Sharing personal information about a student with a third party.

- Any action that lead to the “favorite” student perception.
- Asking students to run personal errands.

Appropriate verbal and physical interactions:

1. Respect physical boundaries and personal space.
2. Teach students the difference between appropriate and inappropriate physical contact.
3. Hugs are a common occurrence especially at the elementary level; hugs should be:
 - a. Initiated by the student;
 - b. Occur in the presence of other adults and/or in the full sight of others;
 - c. Not include, lifting, sitting students on your lap, kissing, or rubbing the student’s head or shoulders.
4. Don’t engage in any incidental forms of touching. Avoid physical contact unless necessary for the safety of the student or the safety of others.
5. Use reasonable eye contact.
6. Don’t spend significant out-of-school time with students.
7. Model appropriate/respectful verbal interactions.
8. Eliminate jokes and sarcasm.
9. Be cautious when using nicknames for students.
10. Don’t use MySpace, online discussion boards and other social networking systems with students.
11. Don’t share personal emails with students. Limit the use of emails and the web to educational use only.
12. Ensure that all conversations with students support student learning and growth.