

CLAYTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



MANDATORY REPORTS – CHILD ABUSE

Child Abuse Reporting Rules went into effect July 1, 2012

House Bill 1176 amended O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse. O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 is designed for the protection of children whose health and welfare are adversely affected and further threatened by the conduct of those responsible for their care and protection. O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 has been amended as follows:

- ‘Child service personnel’ means persons **employed by** or **volunteering** at a business or an organization whether public, private, for profit, not for profit, or voluntary, that provides care, treatment, education, training, supervision, coaching, counseling, recreational programs, or shelter to children.
- If a person is required to report child abuse pursuant to this subsection because that person attended to a child pursuant to such person’s duties as an **employee** of or **volunteer** at a hospital, school, social agency, or similar facility, that person shall notify the person in charge of the facility, or the designated delegate thereof, and the person so notified shall report or cause a report to be made...
- *“From an ethical and moral standpoint, volunteers who work with children already have an obligation to report suspected child abuse. (Georgia) House Bill 1176 simply makes this obligation a requirement by law.”*
(Source: Sam Olens, Attorney General)

To whom do you report?

The law states:

“An oral report shall be made immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused, by telephone or otherwise and followed by a report in writing, if requested to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Services, or in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.”

Mandatory Reporting Within the School District:

Within the Clayton County School District, mandated child abuse protocol directs school staff, volunteers, or anyone in contact with district students to **contact a school counselor or school administrator immediately** to report suspected child abuse.

Required Video on Mandatory Reporting:

All school staff and anyone involved with students including volunteers must watch the informational child abuse video available on the Clayton County School District website. The *live link* to the video is:

<http://chalkboard.clayton.k12.ga.us/Administrative/SISAdmin/TrainingVideos.asp>

What are the Rights of Mandated Reporters?

- Anonymity or confidentiality (when possible)
- Immunity for a “good faith” report
- Knowledge that a report was made

Penalty for not reporting – Guilty of a misdemeanor