

Essex County College College Regulation

REG 2-16 REPORTING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Purpose:

To maintain a mechanism for reporting evidence of child abuse or neglect.

Definition(s):

“Abused or neglected child” means a child less than 18 years of age whose parent or guardian, as herein defined, (1) inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury by other than accidental means which causes or creates a substantial risk of death, or serious or protracted disfigurement, or protracted impairment of physical or emotional health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ; (2) creates or allows to be created a substantial or ongoing risk of physical injury to such child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death or serious or protracted disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ; (3) commits or allows to be committed an act of sexual abuse against the child; (4) or a child whose physical, mental, or emotional condition has been impaired or is in imminent danger of becoming impaired as the result of the failure of his parent or guardian, as herein defined, to exercise a minimum degree of care (a) in supplying the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, medical or surgical care though financially able to do so or though offered financial or other reasonable means to do so, or (b) in providing the child with proper supervision or guardianship, by unreasonably inflicting or allowing to be inflicted harm, or substantial risk thereof, including the infliction of excessive corporal punishment; or by any other acts of a similarly serious nature requiring the aid of the court; (5) or a child who has been willfully abandoned by his parent or guardian, as herein defined; (6) or a child upon whom excessive physical restraint has been used under circumstances which do not indicate that the child’s behavior is harmful to himself, others or property; (7) or a child who is in an institution and (a) has been placed there inappropriately for a continued period of time with the knowledge that the placement has resulted or may continue to result in harm to the child’s mental or physical well-being or (b) who has been willfully isolated from ordinary social contact under circumstances which indicate emotional or social deprivation.

“Parent or guardian” means any natural parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, stepparent, or any person, who has assumed responsibility for the care, custody or control of a child or upon whom there is a legal duty for such care. Parent or guardian includes a teacher, employee or volunteer, whether compensated or uncompensated, of an institution who is responsible for the child’s welfare and any other staff person of an institution regardless of whether or not the person is responsible for the care or supervision of the child. Parent or guardian also includes a teaching staff member or other employee whether compensated or uncompensated, of a day school.

Application:

1. Child abuse or neglect, including but not limited to physical, verbal or emotional abuse, is strictly prohibited.
2. Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect shall immediately report the same to his/her immediate supervisor, who shall report it to the departmental director, who shall report it to the appropriate area head, who shall report it to General Counsel, who will report to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency. The area head in

conjunction with the Department of Public Safety and the appropriate Cabinet Officer or designee shall cause the report of said information to be forwarded to the Division of Youth and Family Services. The report may be by telephone or any other appropriate means of communication.

3. The written report, where possible, shall contain the names and addresses of the child and his/her parent or guardian, other persons having custody and control of the child. Further, it shall contain, if known, the child's age, the nature and possible extent of the child's injuries, abuse or maltreatment, including any evidence of previous injuries, abuse of maltreatment, and any other information that the person believes may be helpful with respect to the child abuse and the identity of the perpetrator.
4. Any employee who has knowledge of suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect and fails to report the same shall be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including termination, as well as criminal sanctions.
5. Any employee who is found, after appropriate investigation, to have perpetrated child abuse on a student or invitee of the College community shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination, as well as criminal sanctions.
6. All reports of alleged child abuse shall be kept confidential. The information shall be disclosed only to those agencies or entities mandated by law.
7. Any employee who engages in deliberate false reporting of child abuse shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination, as well as criminal sanctions.

Responsible Official(s):	Reference(s): <i>N.J.S.A. 2C: 24-4; N.J.S.A. 9:6-3; N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10; N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10a; N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.21; N.J.S.A. 18A: 36-24 et seq.</i>
Regulation History: App. 6/96, Rev. 10/01, 7/11, 3/17	Attachment(s):