

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Principals shall post in a prominent place in the school a notice that pursuant to Chapter 39 all employees or agents of the District have:

- A. an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect;
- B. immunity from liability if they report such cases in good faith;
- C. a duty to comply with child protective investigations and all other provisions of law relating to child abuse and neglect.

The notice shall also include the statewide toll free telephone number of the State's Central Abuse Registry.

The Superintendent/designee, in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect or unlawful sexual offenses involving a child, at the request of the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), will act as a liaison to MCSO and DCFS and the child protection team, as defined in F.S. 39.01(13), when the case is referred to such a team.

When releasing children into protective custody of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) the following shall apply:

- A. The authorized agents of the department may take a child into custody if the agent has reasonable grounds to believe that the child has been abandoned, abused, neglected, is suffering from illness or injury, or is in immediate danger from his/her surroundings and that his/her removal is necessary to protect the child, or pursuant to an order of the Circuit Court.
- B. Before releasing a child to the custody of an agent of DCFS, the principal shall ensure the following:
  - 1. The identity of the person as an agent of DCFS.
  - 2. That the agent has been authorized by DCFS to take children into protective custody (Refer to DCFS list of authorized agents).
- C. That the agent has in his/her possession either (1) a certified

copy of an Order of the Circuit Court for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, authorizing the protective custody of the child by DCFS, with a copy of this order to be kept by the principal; or alternatively, (2) the authorized DCFS agent shall have a notarized affidavit reciting his/her authority under law and acknowledging receipt of the child into his/her custody and releasing the Board and its employees from liability.

F.S. Chapter 39, 415.501 through 415.522, 1001.41, 1001.43, 1006.061  
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