



CUTLER-OROSI JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

EVERY EMPLOYEE OF CUTLER-OROSI JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A CHILD ABUSE MANDATED REPORTER.

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act identifies **all teachers, aides, administrators, classified employees** and any other school district employees as mandated reporters

A mandated reporter **shall make a report** whenever the mandated reporter, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, **has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect**. Child abuse is:

- A. Physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person.
- B. Sexual abuse, meaning sexual assault or sexual exploitation.
- C. Neglect, which includes general neglect and severe neglect.
- D. Willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child.
- E. Cruel or inhuman corporal punishment or injury resulting in a traumatic condition.

The report shall be made **immediately** or as soon as is practicably possible **by telephone**, and the mandated reporter shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a **written report within 36 hours**. The report shall be made to any police department, sheriff's department, or the county welfare department. In Tulare County, the number to call is **1-800-331-1585, at any time of day or night**.

The duty to report is specific to the individual who suspects the child abuse. However, if a group of employees jointly have knowledge of or suspect child abuse or neglect, they may agree among them that a selected one will make the report on behalf of them all. Reporting a suspected case of child abuse or neglect to an employer or another school employee is not a substitute for making the mandated report to the appropriate agency. No supervisor or administrator may inhibit a mandated reporter from making a required report or sanction them for making it. The employer does not have a right to know the identity of an employee who makes a mandated report.

No mandated reporter shall incur civil or criminal liability for any report which he or she is mandated or authorized by law to make, even if the reporter acquired the knowledge or reasonable suspicion outside of his or her professional capacity or outside the scope of his or her employment.

A mandated reporter who fails to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect is guilty of a misdemeanor. Punishment is up to 6 months in jail, a fine of \$1,000, or both. The Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing can revoke or suspend a certificated person's credential for persistent defiance of, or refusal to obey, the laws regulating the duties of persons serving in the public school system, including the duty to make mandated reports. Under certain circumstances, a mandated reporter may be held civilly liable for failing to make a required report.

WHEN IN DOUBT, REPORT!

I acknowledge and understand my duty to report child abuse. I agree to comply with this duty.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____