

**5021**  
**Child Abuse or Neglect**

Because of their daily contact with school-age children, educators and other school employees are in a unique position to identify abused and/or neglected children. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; or (5) sexually abused.

**Reporting Procedure.** School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who suspects that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately, if available.
2. Together, the principal and school employee shall then make a report to the office of social services or law enforcement. If the building principal is not available, the school employee shall make the report. All efforts will be made to make the report together, however, not required.
3. If the safety or well-being of the child is in jeopardy, the report shall be made immediately to the city police department or the county sheriff's department.

**Contents of the Report.** The report to authorities shall contain the following information to the extent it is available: (1) name and position of reporting person; (2) name, address, and age of abused or neglected person; (3) address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person; (4) the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect; and (5) any other information that may be useful in establishing the identity of the persons involved and cause of the abuse or neglect.

**Legal Immunity.** Nebraska statutes give legal immunity from any civil or criminal liability to any person who makes a good faith report of child abuse or neglect or participates in a judicial proceeding resulting from such a report.

Adopted on: July 9, 2010

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_