

SECTION 6: OPERATIONS

Policy 6.02: Child Abuse (Maltreatment) Reporting Policy

Supporting Policies

[4.07 Employee Ethics](#)

Supporting Procedures

Supporting Protocols and Guidelines

Child Abuse Protocol Between Children's Aid Society of Algoma and Algoma District School Board

Supporting Templates and Forms

Children's Aid Society School Report Form

Other Resources

[Child, Youth and Family Services Act](#)

[Child and Family Services Act RSO 1990](#)

Approved by Board Resolution #154-1998 06 23

Approved by Board Resolution #111-2014 06 17

Approved by Board Resolution #060-2023 05 30

Background:

The Child, Youth, and Family Services Act contains provisions for reporting a child who is or may be in need of protection. If any person – *including a person who performs professional or official duties with respect to children* – has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection, the act requires that the person report their suspicions 'immediately' to a children's aid society to provide the information on which the suspicions are based.

Reasonable grounds may include, but are not limited to, any manner of physical, psychological, social - emotional or sexual maltreatment of a child whereby the survival, safety, self-esteem, or growth and development of the child is endangered. This includes the risk that:

- The child has suffered or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer physical harm
- The child has been or there is a substantial risk that the child will be sexually molested or sexually assaulted
- The child has suffered or there is a substantial risk that the child is likely to suffer emotional harm.

Policy Statement:

All Algoma District School Board staff who, in the course of performing their professional or official duties, suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection, must report this information without delay



as per established reporting protocols. Staff must report directly and not rely on or delegate anyone else to report on their behalf.

Similarly, the Algoma District School Board recognizes that the duty to report applies although the information reported would normally be considered confidential or privileged, and no action for making the report shall be instituted against a person who acts in accordance with these requirements unless the person acts maliciously or without reasonable grounds for the belief or suspicion.

The duty to report continues to be an ongoing obligation. If a person has made a report to a child protection agency and has additional reasonable grounds to suspect that the child is or may be in need of protection, that person must make a further report.

Reporting Procedures

All Algoma District School Board employees dealing with suspected cases of child maltreatment are directed to the appropriate procedures that have been developed in accordance with this policy. These procedures are contained in the Child Abuse Protocol Between Children's Aid Society and Algoma District School Board.