

No. 806-AG

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

806- AG CHILD/STUDENT ABUSE

Duty To Report

School employes who in the course of their employment come into contact with children shall report or cause a report to be made when they have reasonable cause to suspect, on the basis of their medical, professional, or other training and experience, that a child coming before them in their professional or official capacity is an abused child. Privileged communication between any professional person required to report and the patient or client of that person shall not apply to situations involving child abuse and shall not constitute grounds for failure to report.

School employes required to report suspected child abuse shall include but are not limited to school administrator, school teacher, school nurse.

Any person required to report child abuse who, in good faith, makes or causes the report to be made shall have immunity from civil and criminal liability related to those actions.

A person or official required to report a case of suspected child abuse who willfully fails to do so commits a summary offense for the first violation and a misdemeanor of the third degree for a second or subsequent violation.

Reporting Procedures

School employes who suspect child abuse shall immediately notify the school principal or the principal's designated agent. Upon notification, the principal or the designated agent shall report the suspected child abuse.

Reports of child abuse shall be made immediately by tele phone and in writing within forty-eight (48) hours after the oral report. Oral reports shall be made to the Department of Public Welfare and may be made to the appropriate county agency. Written reports shall be made on the form supplied by the

Department of Public Welfare.

Investigation

Act 151 makes it a criminal offense for any school district or school official to fail to cooperate with the Department of Public Welfare or the county agency investigating a report of suspected child abuse. Cooperation includes permitting authorized personnel from the department or agency to interview the child while s/he is in attendance at school.

A person or official required to report cases of suspected child abuse may take or cause to be taken photographs of the child who is subject to a report and, if clinically indicated, cause to be performed a radiological examination and other medical tests on the child.

Upon receipt of a complaint of suspected child abuse, the Department of Public Welfare shall maintain a record of the complaint of suspected child abuse in the pending complaint file.