

## Child Abuse and Neglect Procedure

In accordance with Tennessee Law, Greene County Schools acknowledges its responsibility to require employees to immediately report cases of verified or suspected child abuse and neglect.<sup>1</sup> Repeated unexplained injuries, erratic changes in behavior, sexual behavior that is not age-appropriate, a sudden drop in grades or participation in activities, and evidence that the child's basic needs are not regularly met are some examples of abuse and neglect. The following procedures for reporting cases are designated:

### 1. Reporting Procedures

#### a. Suspected child abuse/and or neglect by someone other than a Greene County Schools employee.

- (1) The employee must immediately report the information to the **Department of Children's Services (DCS), the Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Judge or sheriff.**<sup>1</sup> The information should include the name, address, telephone number of the child and parents or guardian, birthdate (age) of the child and the present whereabouts of the child, if not at home.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) Information may be reported to the **Department of Children's Services** toll free Central Intake Reporting line at **1-877-237-0004** or the local Department of Children's service's office if there is reason to believe the child is in danger if he/she returns to the home.

#### b. Suspected child abuse and/or neglect by a Greene County Schools employee.

- (1) Any school personnel who has knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that a child may be a victim of any form of abuse while under the supervision or care of the school must notify the Department of Children's Services, Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Judge, or sheriff as well as Director of Schools or his/her designee immediately. The information should include the name, address, telephone number of the child and parents or guardian, birth date (age) of the child and the present whereabouts of the child, if not at home.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) A report, in coordination with the Department of Children's Services must be made verbally to the child's parents/legal guardian within 24 hours of the time of the report to the authorities. This notice shall not be given to any parent/legal guardian if there is reasonable cause to believe that the parent/legal guardian is in any way responsible for the abuse.<sup>1</sup>

2. Any person who knowingly fails to make a report required by TCA 37-1-403 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction may be fined an amount not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500.00).<sup>2</sup>