



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 8, 2019

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Local Education Agency Principals
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Mandated Reporter Requirements Updated

In accordance with Section 3(a) of MCL 722.623 – [the Child Protection Law](#) – teachers, school counselors, and school administrators are **required** to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect as mandated reporters. The [Mandated Reporters' Resource Guide](#) states: The Child Protection Law requires mandated reporters who have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect to make an immediate oral report to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) – Centralized Intake (855-444-3911), followed by a written report within 72 hours **OR** create a report through the [Michigan Online Reporting System](#) (MORS). A written report is not required if MORS was utilized to address the alleged abuse/neglect. The reporter is not expected to investigate the matter, know the legal definitions of child abuse and neglect, or even know the name of the perpetrator. The Child Protection Law is intended to make reporting simple and places responsibility for determining appropriate action with the Children's Protective Services (CPS) division of MDHHS.

Notifying parents/guardians, school administrators, or other individuals of authority is not adequate fulfillment of mandatory reporting requirements. To clarify, telling your supervisor is not sufficient to fulfill your legal requirement.

The [Child Protection Law](#) aligns with Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Strategic Plan Goal 4: Reduce the impact of high-risk factors, including poverty, and provide equitable resources to meet the needs of all students to ensure that they have access to quality educational opportunities.

More information regarding mandated reporting, requirements, and how to report can be found on the [MDHHS website](#). Other resources that can be found on the MDHHS website and through the following links are:

- [The Mandated Reporters' Resource Guide](#)
- [The Guide to Detailed Reporting](#)
- [The Child Protection Law](#)

For additional information, please contact Leah Breen at breenl1@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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