

2. Child Abuse/Neglect Policy

Due to Minnesota State Law regarding Child Abuse/Neglect, the following procedure has been adopted by the Edgerton Christian Elementary School. These steps should be taken in the event of suspected child abuse or neglect:

1. Observation is made of suspected CA/N, probably by a teacher or the nurse (the identifier).
2. Report to and confer with the principal to determine if the suspect is reportable.
3. If determined to be suspected CA/N, the principal will make an oral report to Family Services. If the principal is unavailable, the teacher will call as is determined by the particular situation. This must be done the same day as the observation for adequate follow-up.

This oral report should identify (as according to M.S. 626.556, Subd. 7):

- a. the child
 - b. the parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care.
 - c. the nature or extent of the child's injuries or neglect.
 - d. the name and address of the reporter.
4. The identifier of the CA/N will then complete the CA/N reporting form, making two copies. (Forms are available in the school office.) This should be done the same day as the oral report, if possible. Give the completed forms to the principal.
 5. The principal will review and mail one copy of the reporting form to Family Services. The second copy is maintained in a separate file at school.

Additional Information

Quotes from the law regarding the Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors (M.S. 626.556):

Subd. 1. "...it is the policy of this state to require the reporting of suspected neglect, physical or sexual abuse of children..."

Subd. 2. Definitions

(b) "...Neglect means failure by parent, guardian or other person responsible for a child's care to supply a child with necessary food, clothing, shelter or medical care when reasonably able to do so or failure to protect a child from conditions or actions which imminently and seriously endanger the child's physical or mental health when reasonably able to do so."

(c) Physical Abuse means any physical injury inflicted by a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care on a child other than by accidental means; or any physical injury that cannot reasonably be explained by the history of injuries provided by a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for a child's care."

Subd. 3. "Persons mandated to report. A professional...who is engaged in the healing arts . . . psychological treatment...child care, education...who has knowledge of or reasonable cause to believe a child is being neglected or physically or sexually abused shall immediately report the information to the local welfare agency..."

Subd. 6. "Failure to Report. Any person required by this section to report suspected physical or sexual child abuse or neglect who willfully fails to do so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

Adopted 7/6/98