

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Intervention Training Curriculum Guideline**

Developed by the Virginia Board of Education  
And the Virginia Department of Social Services

This curriculum guideline was developed to in response to Senate Bill 92 of the 2002 General Assembly, which requires all persons seeking initial licensure or licensure renewal for the first time after July 1, 2004, complete study in child abuse recognition and intervention. Such study should address three topics: (a) recognition of child abuse and neglect; (b) reporting child abuse and neglect; (c) interdisciplinary intervention following a child protective services investigation.

This guideline does not prescribe the length or provider of training; rather, the guidelines identify the topic areas that should be addressed. Institutions of higher education and local educational agencies and other entities employing persons licensed by the Board of Education are free to design and implement the training in any manner, such that the information presented conforms to these guidelines.

### **A. Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Goal 1:** To become familiar with three types of child abuse and neglect:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

**Goal 2:** To be able to recognize physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect

- Legal definitions
- Operational definitions
- Child indicators
  - Physical
  - Behavioral
- Caretaker indicators
- Abuse and neglect of children with disabilities
  - Risk factors related to the disability
- Truancy/compulsory attendance (COV §22.1.260-263)
- Corporal punishment (COV §22.1-279.1)

### **Reporting Requirements**

**Goal 3:** To be able to identify when it is necessary to report to child protective services

- Mandated report requirements (COV §63.1-1509)

- Penalty for failure to report
- Liability for reporting
- Reporting protocols for school employees (Superintendents Memorandum # 27 Informational, March 1, 2002)
- Complaints against school personnel (COV §63.2-1511)

- Goal 4:** To understand procedures for reporting to social services
- Reporting procedures, including use of a designee for each school or division
  - Confidentiality requirements
- Goal 5:** To understand social services' response to a report
- Mission of child protective services
  - Child protective services' interview requirements
  - Types of findings
  - Information reported back to the reporter

### **Intervention**

- Goal 6:** To understand how to promote resiliency in children
- Identifying resiliency indicators
  - Procedures for facilitating resiliency
- Goal 7:** To become familiar with effective intervention strategies
- Services provided by social services
  - Value of interdisciplinary collaboration with social services

## **Resources:**

The following resources may be helpful in designing training to assist licensed education personnel in recognizing child abuse and neglect and in fulfilling their legal responsibility to report suspected cases of child abuse.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Legal requirements:***

Licensure requirements: Code of Virginia §[22.1-298.8](#)

Mandated reporter requirements: Code of Virginia §[63.2-1509](#)

### ***Recommended local protocols and procedures***

*Recommended Procedures and Protocol for Local Agreements for Handling Child Abuse or Neglect Reports* (Superintendents' Memorandum #27, Mar 01, 2002, Informational.

### ***Recognizing child abuse and neglect***

*Child Abuse and Neglect Brochure: Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect. A Guide for School Employees* (Superintendents' Memorandum #148, October 25, 2002,

Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Social Services Child Protective Services: *Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Guide for School Employees.*<sup>2</sup>

Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services. *Assistance for Special Educators, Law Enforcement, and Child Protective Services in Recognizing and Managing Abuse and Neglect of Children with Disabilities.*

The Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, in Partnership with The Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia: *Protecting Children: A Mandated Reporter's Guide to Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect.* (video)<sup>3</sup>

### ***Websites of Interest***

Virginia Department of Social Services [www.dss.state.va.us](http://www.dss.state.va.us)

Virginia Commonwealth University's Partnership for People with Disabilities' training on Abuse and Neglect of Children with Disabilities [www.vcu.edu/partnership/abuse.htm](http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/abuse.htm)

Childhelp USA: Treatment and Prevention of Child Abuse [www.childhelpusa.org](http://www.childhelpusa.org)

University of Maryland, School of Public Affairs, Welfare Reform Academy's video on recognizing and reporting child abuse [www.welfareacademy.org](http://www.welfareacademy.org)

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<sup>1</sup> The list of resources is not meant to be exhaustive nor does inclusion of any product not developed by either the Virginia Board of Education or Virginia Department of Social Services represent endorsement by those agencies.

<sup>2</sup> Available from the Virginia Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services Unit at 730 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-1849 or (804) 692-1259.

<sup>3</sup> Available from the Young Lawyer's Division section of the Virginia Bar Association's website at [www.vba.org](http://www.vba.org)