

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Requirements For Volunteers, Contractors, and Other Designated Individuals



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Resources

At any time during this course, you may click on the below links for additional information.

[Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act \(ANCRA\)](#)

[Policy FAQs: Protection of Minors](#)

[DCFS Manual for Mandated Reporters](#)

[DCFS Tips for Mandated Reporters](#)

[DCFS: Contact Us](#)

Protection of Minors at the U of I

The University of Illinois [*Protection of Minors*](#) policy requires that all Members of the University Community, volunteers, contractors, and other designated individuals complete a university-approved education program about protecting minor children on campus.

This material is intended to provide you with a basic understanding of the requirements and contains an acknowledgement which confirms your understanding of your reporting responsibilities. Regardless of your past training, review of this material and the acknowledgement is required and will be retained by the University.

Based on your position or role within the University, your department may require you to complete a more comprehensive education program on this topic.

Why Protecting Minors Is Important

The University of Illinois recognizes a fundamental obligation to protect minor children (children under the age of 18), the youngest and potentially most vulnerable members of our community, when they are on University premises participating in University programs, or are in the care of University staff.

If you suspect child abuse or neglect of a minor, then you must immediately report your suspicions to the University Police:

Chicago: 312-996-2830

Springfield: 217-206-6690

Urbana: 217-333-1216

The Department for Children and Family Services (DCFS) has established definitions of the types of abuse that require reporting, and these definitions will be further explained in the following pages of material.

Children At The University

Children may be on campus for a variety of reasons. Some examples of activities they frequently participate in include:

Summer camp

Patient or visitor at the university hospital

College prep class

4-H

Sports camp

Campus visitor

Music camp

Patient or visitor at a hospital clinic

University Student Under the Age of 18

The University of Illinois Policy [Protection of Minors](#) requires Members of the University Community, including volunteers, contractors, and affiliates to report suspected abuse or neglect of *any minor* known to the individual in his or her official capacity, *including those minors who are enrolled at the University or who have been accepted for enrollment at the University.*

What is Physical Abuse?

Physical abuse occurs when a parent or person responsible for a minor's welfare commits acts such as:

- ▶ Inflicts or allows a physical injury to a child that is non-accidental, including bruises, bites, bone fractures, cuts, welts, and burns
- ▶ Creates or allows a substantial risk of physical harm to a child
- ▶ Violates a court order that prohibits an identified perpetrator from having access to a child
- ▶ Deliberately inflicts or allows cruel or unusual treatment that results in physical or mental suffering by the child
- ▶ Inflicts or allows excessive corporal punishment. (NOTE: If a parent or caretaker causes physical injury during overly harsh discipline, it does not matter that he or she did not intend to hurt the child)
- ▶ Gives or allows a controlled substance to be given to a child under 18 years of age
- ▶ Exposes the child to the manufacturing, selling, or use of illegal drugs

Signs of Physical Abuse

Some children show obvious, outward signs of abuse, such as:

- Unexplained marks on the body (cuts, bruises, welts, burns, black eyes, fractures or dislocations)
- Bruises or welts in various stages of healing, or in clusters or patterns in the shape of an object, like a belt or an electrical cord
- Pattern burns, such as cigarette burns, iron burns, burns in the shape of a specific object, or scald burns in an immersion pattern
- Marks hidden from typically exposed areas of skin

Signs of Physical Abuse (Con't)

Other children may show more subtle indicators, such as behavioral changes, including:

- Extreme vigilance or watchfulness
- Bullying smaller children
- Poor social interactions with peers
- Extreme fear of parents or caregivers (e.g. does not want to go home)
- Harming animals

What is Sexual Abuse?

Sexual abuse occurs when a parent or a person responsible for a child's welfare commits any of the following acts:

- ▶ Sexual penetration. This means any contact between the sex organ of one person and the sex organ, mouth, or anus of another person. Acts include vaginal, anal and oral sex.
- ▶ Sexual molestation of a child. This occurs when the perpetrator touches the child or asks the child to touch him for the sexual gratification or arousal of the perpetrator or the child. Examples include fondling a child or having the child fondle the perpetrator.
- ▶ Sexual exploitation. This is the “sexual use of a child for sexual arousal, gratification, advantage or profit,” as defined by DCFS. It includes child pornography, forcing a child to watch sex acts, or exposing genitals to a child.

Signs of Sexual Abuse

Possible Signs of Sexual Abuse Include:

- Sexual knowledge beyond what is age appropriate
- Recurring pain or itching in genital or anal areas
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Frequent bladder or urinary tract infections
- Genital injury
- Unexplained regression or fear
- Sexual acting out behavior

NOTE: Sexual predators often abuse children in ways that do not leave physical signs, such as fondling the child, exposing themselves to the child, or having the child perform sexual acts on the adult. Even sexual penetration of a child does not always leave obvious signs of abuse.

What is Neglect?

Illinois enforces "minimum parenting standards." According to DCFS, neglect occurs when a parent or responsible caretaker fails to provide these minimum requirements for their child:

- ▶ Adequate supervision
- ▶ Medical care/attention
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Clothing
- ▶ Shelter

Neglect may also include significantly delaying the provision of these necessities (such as failing to take a child who has a broken bone for medical treatment). Other forms of neglect include taking illegal drugs during pregnancy, placing a child at risk of harm, or exposing a child to hazardous living conditions. Any child who is present during the manufacture of methamphetamine is considered abused and/or neglected.

Signs of Neglect

Possible Signs of Neglect Include:

- Often hungry in the morning
- Poor hygiene
- Evidence of poor or no supervision
- Underweight, poor growth, failure to thrive
- Dressed inappropriately for the weather
- Erratic attendance at school

What is NOT Considered Abuse or Neglect?

It is also important to understand what is NOT child abuse or neglect. Here are some examples of situations that do not fall within DCFS's mandate to investigate child abuse:

Certain Sexual Behaviors In Children Are Normal And Age Appropriate

- Children who are curious about their own bodies
- Preschool children who giggle while touching their bodies in an exploratory manner
- Children of the same age and developmental stage who are curious about and explore each other's bodies

What is NOT Considered Abuse or Neglect? (Con't)

Certain Family Circumstances Are Not Considered Abusive or Neglectful:

- Spanking that is not “excessive corporal punishment” because it does not leave marks or injuries
- A dirty home that is not hazardous
- An older child left home alone who is capable of caring for himself
- A child left in the care of an adult relative who has often cared for the child in the past, even if the parent has not made an arrangement for child care
- A child who a licensed physician reasonably believes is 30 days old or less at the time the child is initially relinquished to a safe haven.

Your Responsibilities

You should contact University Police whenever you believe that a person who is caring for the child, who lives with the child, or who works with or around children has caused injury or harm or put the child at risk of physical injury. Some examples include:

- ▶ If you see someone hitting a child with an object
- ▶ If you see marks on a child's body that do not appear to have been caused by accident
- ▶ If a child tells you that he or she has been harmed by someone
- ▶ If a child appears to be undernourished, is dressed inappropriately for the weather, or is young and has been left alone

Steps to Follow

All University of Illinois volunteers, contractors, and other designated individuals should understand and follow these steps:

1. If you have reasonable cause to believe that a minor has been abused or neglected at the University or at a University sponsored event, you **MUST** immediately contact University Police:

UIC: 312-996-2830

UIS: 217-206-6690

UIUC: 217-333-1216

Please remember that in emergencies, all members of the University community are expected to call the police or “911.” Please use your best judgment.

Submitting Your Acknowledgement

1. Please print and complete the form that appears on the next page:
 - a) University of Illinois Volunteer, Contractor, and Other Designated Individuals Identification and Protection of Minors Acknowledgement Form
2. Submit this form to your department.



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University of Illinois Volunteer, Contractor, and Other Designated Individuals
Identification and Protection of Minors Acknowledgement Form

Please print all information except the last line which requires your signature.

NAME: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____

9-Digit UIN: _____
(if applicable)

POSITION: _____

CAMPUS: _____
(Chicago, Springfield, Urbana)

DEPARTMENT: _____

My below signature indicates that I have reviewed the education material contained in “Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Requirements for Volunteers, Contractors, and Other Designated Individuals”. Furthermore, I understand that I must contact University Police if I suspect abuse or neglect of a child when they are on University premises participating in University programs or are in the care of University staff.

SIGNATURE: _____