

Downey Unified School District
STUDENTS

IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE

AR 2522

Identification of Child Abuse

1. All certificated and classified school personnel and registered nurses are required by law to report suspected child abuse.
2. All certificated and classified personnel entering employment after January 1, 1985, as a prerequisite to that employment shall sign a statement to the effect that they have knowledge of the provisions of the Penal Code section regarding their responsibility to report known or suspected instances of child abuse.
3. Each school in the District shall annually review with the staff the requirements for reporting child abuse and physical and behavioral indicators of abuse.

Reporting Procedure

1. Any certificated or classified employee who knows or reasonably suspects that a student is a victim of child abuse shall report such instance to the student's principal. In the event of suspected abuse the school nurse or health assistant shall be contacted.
2. A telephone report shall be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement to the appropriate law enforcement agency and the Department of Children's Services (DCS) as soon as practical. A written report shall be prepared and signed by the selected team member and forwarded to DCS and the Director, Pupil Services, on forms provided by the Department of Justice. This form shall be submitted within 36 hours of observation or notification of suspected abuse. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter make such report.
3. A statement shall be placed in the student's school folder indicating a report of suspected child abuse has been filed with the Director, Pupil Services.