



**POLICY
SUBJECT:**

**JHF
REPORTING CHILDREN IN
NEED OF PROTECTION**

APPROVAL DATE:

April 24, 1990

REVISION DATE:

October 4, 2004

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1. GENERAL

1.1 The Winnipeg School Division recognizes that, in Manitoba it is everyone's legal obligation to protect children. The responsibility involves identifying and reporting a child who is or might be in need of protection.

2. CHILD IN NEED OF PROTECTION

2.1 Responsibility

The following sections of the Child and Family Services Act outline the responsibilities of and protection for staff with regard to reporting a child in need of protection:

18(1) Reporting a Child in Need of Protection

Subject to subsection (1.1), where a person has information that leads the person reasonably to believe that a child is or might be in need of protection as provided in section 17, the person shall forthwith report the information to an agency or to a parent or guardian of the child. S.M. 1989-90, C.3, s.4

18.1(1) Protection of Informant

No action lies against a person for providing information in good faith and in compliance with section 18.

S.M. 1989-90, C.3, s.5

2.2 Duty to Report

2.2.1 All members of the staff of The Winnipeg School Division who have reasonable cause to believe that a child is in need of protection shall report the information to an agency or to a parent/guardian in accordance with the Child and Family Services Act and the Manitoba Guidelines on Identifying and Reporting a Child in Need of Protection (August, 2001).

2.2.2 No employee shall in any way restrict, inhibit, or discipline other staff persons from reporting a child in need of protection.

2.3 Identity Not Revealed

No person shall, except as required in the course of a judicial proceeding, disclose to the family of a child reported to be in need of protection the identity of the informant under section 18 without the written consent of the informant.

2.4 Informing Staff

The Chief Superintendent or designate, at the beginning of each and every school year, shall inform all staff members of:

- (a) their obligation to report a child in need of protection as set out in the Child and Family Services Act;
- (b) the procedures for reporting actual or suspected cases of child abuse;
- (c) the provisions of the Child and Family Services Act providing protection to those individuals who provide information regarding child abuse;
- (d) the Manitoba Guidelines on Identifying and Reporting a Child in the Need of Protection (August 2001).

3.0 ACCUSATION AGAINST STAFF PERSON/STUDENT

If the disclosure or suspicion involves a student, Division employee or other adult having access to children in the school, the principal must inform the Superintendent immediately.

Legislative Requirements:

CCSMcC80 The Child and Family Services Act (2002)