
POLICY AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS FOR KNOWN OR SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT

I. Mandated Reporters and Their Obligations

Every University community member (not limited to individuals who interact with minors) is required by University Policy to report known or suspected instances of the abuse of, neglect of or inappropriate interactions with minors regardless of whether the abuse or neglect was allegedly perpetrated by a member of the University community. For this reason, all University community members are considered mandated reporters under this policy. Ohio law provides certain immunities and protections from civil and criminal liability for those who make good faith reports of child abuse and/or neglect.

In addition, Ohio law designates individuals in certain occupations and professions as mandated reporters. A mandated reporter who is acting in an official or professional capacity and knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect based on facts that would cause a reasonable person in a similar position to suspect, that a child under eighteen years of age, or a person, under twenty-one years of age with a developmental disability or physical impairment, has suffered or faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the child.

II. Legal Obligations of Mandated Reporters Under Ohio Law

Many Responsible Adults are mandated reporters under Ohio law. The entire list of mandated reporters can be found in section [2151.421 of the Ohio Revised Code](#). Ohio law requires such mandated reporters to immediately report any actual or suspected child abuse or neglect to the Steubenville Police Department at 740-283- 6090, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department at 740-283-8600, and/or the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at 855-642-4453. Failure to do so is a crime and can result in prosecution.

III. Additional Reporting Obligation

Anyone, including a mandatory reporter, participating in a University-run or affiliated program or activity involving minors or a non-University program or activity operating on campus involving minors who knows, suspects, or receives information indicating that a minor has been abused or neglected, or who has other concerns about the safety of minors must promptly inform the Youth Protection Officer by calling 740-283-6238 or, if unavailable, the Vice President of Human Resources at 740-283-6445. In addition, one should promptly notify his or her supervisor, program director, dean, or vice president, when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

IV. Emergencies

In case of an emergency, one should immediately call the University's Office of Campus Security at 740-283-6911 or the Steubenville Police Department/ Jefferson County Sheriff's Department at 911. (If using a campus telephone you must first dial 9 then 911). In addition, one

must notify the Youth Protection Officer (or designee) by calling 740-283-6238, or if unavailable, the Vice President of Human Resources at 740-283-6445.

V. Questions

Questions about one's obligations or what one should do in a situation that makes one uncomfortable should be raised with the Youth Protection Officer at 740-283-6238 or the Vice President of Human Resources at 740-283-6445.

VI. Pertinent Ohio Revised Code Sections

ORC 2151.03, Neglected child defined, <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2151.03>

ORC 2151.031, Abused child defined, codes.ohio.gov/orc/2151.031

ORC 2151.421, Reporting child abuse or neglect, codes.ohio.gov/orc/2151.421

ORC 2151.99, Penalty, codes.ohio.gov/orc/2151.99

OCR 2919.22, Endangering children, codes.ohio.gov/orc/2919.22

ORC 2921.22, Failure to report a crime or knowledge of a death or burn injury, codes.ohio.gov/orc/2921.22