

Nevada Outdoor School Child Abuse Reporting Policy

Pursuant to The Child Abuse Reporting Law (NRS 432B.220), Nevada Outdoor School staff are required to report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse and neglect to the State Office for Services to Children and Families (SCF), or to the police. Child abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to:

Physical Injury

- Bruises, welts, burns, cuts, broken bones, sprains, bites, etc., which are deliberately inflicted.
- Injuries may be in the shape of the article used (electric cord, belt buckle, etc.) and may not necessarily match a description of how they occurred (fracture from falling off sofa, etc.)

Neglect

- Failure to provide food, shelter, medicine, etc. to such a degree that a child's health and safety are endangered.
- Neglected children often don't want to leave school, are constantly tired, are left alone with no supervision, and/or may have unmet physical, emotional or medical needs.

Sexual Abuse And Sexual Exploitation

- Any sexual contact in which a child is used to sexually stimulate another person is illegal. This may be anything from rape to fondling to involving a child in pornography.
- Sexually abused or exploited children may often have difficulty walking or sitting; pain or itching in the genital area; torn, stained or bloody underclothing; poor peer relationships; fantasy or infantile behavior; fear of being left alone with someone; inappropriate interest in, knowledge of or acting out of sexual matters; any of the behavioral problems listed under "Mental Injury."

Mental Injury

- A continuing pattern of rejecting, terrorizing, ignoring, isolating or corrupting a child, resulting in serious damage to the child.
- Mentally injured children often have sleep or speech disorders, fail to grow normally, are aggressive or withdrawn, and/or show an abnormal need for emotional support.

Threat Of Harm

- Any action, statement, written or non-verbal message that is serious enough to make a child believe s/he is in danger of being abused.

Child Selling

- Buying, selling or trading for legal or physical custody of a child.
- Child selling does not apply to legitimate adoption or domestic relations planning.

Reporting a Suspicion of Child Abuse or Neglect

A report is not an already established fact, but rather the request for assessment into the condition of a child.

Any reporter's identity will remain confidential to the fullest extent of the law.

Any Nevada Outdoor School staff member with reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect must contact the SCF Child Abuse Reporting Hotline at 1-800-992-5757. In extreme cases, call 911.

If possible, try to obtain the name, age, address of the child and his/her parents or other persons responsible for the child's care. The nature and extent of abuse, including any evidence of previous abuse should also be reported. Include all information that you believe might be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse and for identifying the abuser. ***Use the NOS Incident Report form to report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse and inform your immediate supervisor immediately.

IMPORTANT: A Nevada Outdoor School staff member must not endanger his/her own safety when reporting and/or gathering information regarding child abuse or neglect. Call 911 in situations where you feel your safety may be at risk by reporting and/or gathering information regarding suspicion of child abuse or neglect.