

**NOTIFICATION TO SCHOOL SYSTEM VOLUNTEER**  
**OBLIGATION AS MANDATED REPORTER FOR SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE**

Pursuant to Code Section 19-7-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A), Henry County Schools must notify individuals who volunteer in the school district of their obligations as mandated reporters for suspected child abuse.

**Child abuse includes:**

- (A) Physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by a parent or caretaker by non-accidental means; physical forms of discipline do not count, as long as there is no physical injury to the child;
- (B) Neglect or exploitation of a child by a parent or caretaker thereof; or
- (C) Sexual abuse or exploitation of a child.

**Requirements**

Georgia law requires that all volunteers:

1. Report, not investigate, any suspicions of child abuse as defined above to the principal, supervisor, or designee of the facility within which you are volunteering immediately, but in no case later than the end of the school day or school event for which you are serving as a volunteer.
2. If the above individuals are not available, then Georgia law requires that you make an oral report of suspected child abuse immediately to the Department of Family and Children Services, an appropriate police authority, or a district attorney within 24 hours.
3. If you suspect the child is in immediate danger, you are directed to call 911 immediately.

**Guidance**

- Your verbal report should be made in person or by telephone and followed by a report in writing, if requested.
- **Do not contact the parent or guardian.**
- In causing a report to be made to a child welfare agency, or participating in any judicial proceeding or any other proceeding that results, you are immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed, provided that you are doing so with good intentions.
- A copy of Henry County Schools' procedures for reporting suspected child abuse/neglect has been made available to you on the back of this form. In addition, a video has been made available at the Henry County School system website that will aid you in understanding the signs and symptoms of child abuse/neglect. <http://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/site/default.aspx?PageID=1>
- If you have questions, please contact the principal, school designee, or April Brown, Director of Administrative Services at 770-957-6601.

By your signature below, you acknowledge that you have received a copy of the procedures, you have had an opportunity to review the form and ask questions, have had an opportunity to review the video if so desired, and are aware of your obligation to report suspected child abuse/neglect to the appropriate authorities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date