



POLICY TITLE

Child Abuse Reporting Policy

POLICY NUMBER

12-001

Responsible Unit: <i>Office of Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration</i>	Effective Date: <i>02/21/2020</i>
Responsible Official: <i>Chief of Police</i>	Last Reviewed Date: <i>10/29/2019</i>
Policy Classification: <i>Safety & Security</i>	Origination Date: <i>07/01/2018</i>

I. POLICY STATEMENT AND RATIONALE

Southern University at Shreveport is committed to protecting the safety of children and of students under the age of 18 who participate in college programs, both on and off campus. As a result, this “Child Abuse Reporting” Policy addresses Southern University at Shreveport employee mandatory reporting obligations when child abuse is suspected describes what to report, and details how to make a report. The University places importance on creating a safe environment for children. It is committed to adhere to relevant State and Federal laws. To that end, SUSLA has adopted the following “Child Abuse Reporting” Policy.

II. POLICY SCOPE AND AUDIENCE

This policy describes the mandatory child abuse reporting obligation for all Southern University at Shreveport faculty, staff, students, volunteers, contactors, third-party renters, vendors, and guests involved in all programs, activities or services occurring on the campus or at a sponsored activity occurring off-campus.

III. POLICY COMPLIANCE

Louisiana Children's Code (L.S.A.R-R.S.14:403 Act 601-616) requires all employees to report suspected cases of child abuse to the Department of Children & Family Services or to law enforcement officials. This duty is collectively the responsibility of all SUSLA personnel, and must be abided by twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week according to this policy as mandatory reporters:

Mandatory reporters: Certain individuals are mandated by law to report child abuse and neglect if they have reason to believe a child in their care is being abused or neglected. Mandatory reporters are in a position to identify children who are at risk from abuse and neglect. The Children's Code names the following as mandatory reporters: Mandatory reporters are any of the following individuals performing their occupational duties but not limited to any public or private school teacher, teacher's aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member, bus driver, coach, professor, technical or vocational instructor, technical or vocational school staff member, college or university administrator, college or university staff member (dcfs.LA).

IV. POLICY DEFINITIONS

Minor or Child means any individual under 18 years of age.

Employee is any individual employed by the university or who provides a program, activity or service sponsored by the university whether paid or unpaid. These individuals include staff and faculty, independent contractors, third-party renters, vendors, and guests.

The Louisiana Children's Code (L.S.A.R-R.S.14:403 Act 601-616) provides the following definitions of abuse and neglect by a parent or caretaker:

Caretaker means any person legally obligated to provide or secure adequate care for a child, including a parent, tutor, guardian, legal custodian, foster home parent, an employee of a public or private day care center, an operator or employee of a registered family child day care home, or other person providing a residence for the child.

Abuse means any one of the following acts which seriously endangers the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of the child:

- The infliction, attempted infliction, or, as a result of inadequate supervision, the allowance of the infliction or attempted infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child by a parent or any other person.
- The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person, including but not limited to commercial sexual exploitation of the child.

- The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person, or the aiding or toleration by the parent, caretaker, or any other person of the child's involvement in any of the following:
 - Any sexual act with any other person.
 - Pornographic displays.
 - Any sexual activity constituting a crime under the laws of this state.
- A coerced abortion conducted upon a child.

Neglect means the failure of a parent or other person with responsibility for the child to provide needed food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision to the degree that the child's health, safety, and well-being are threatened with harm.

Prenatal neglect means exposure to chronic or severe use of alcohol or the unlawful use of any controlled dangerous substance, or in a manner not lawfully prescribed, which results in symptoms of withdrawal in the newborn or the presence of a controlled substance or a metabolic thereof in his/her body, blood, urine, or meconium that is not the result of medical treatment, or observable and harmful effects in his/her physical appearance or functioning.

V. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Southern University at Shreveport has designated the University Police as the designee for guidance in making a report of suspected abuse or neglect.

Anyone who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect must report it immediately to the DCFS Child Protection or local law enforcement (LA Children's Code). To comply we are consistent with requirements of the Louisiana Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting Law; oral reports may be made to either:

- a. Call DCFS Child Protection hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (1-855-452-5437) toll free 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to report suspected abuse or neglect as soon as possible. Mandatory reporter form online at <http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=109>
- b. You can report to University Police Department located at SUSLA by calling 318-670-9349 or 318-573-6709 departmental cell for officer on duty. (Designee for reporting).
- c. Dial 911, or dial local authorities. Always call 911 immediately if you witness child abuse or neglect or if you see crime in progress actually taking place.

A. Campus Reporting Obligation:

After making a report to DCFS Child Protection, also promptly inform University Police as designee to receive reports of suspected child abuse or neglect.

If you are an employee of the institution and you learn of the maltreatment in the course of your duties at the institution and/or the abuse or the neglect involves:

- i. SUSLA employee, contractor, volunteer, or student;
- ii. An incident on institution property; or
- iii. An incident that took place in connection with an institution-sponsored or recognized program or activity.

B. Criteria for Acceptance of a Report

Not all reports of suspected child abuse or neglect are accepted for investigation. Reports must meet the following criteria:

- an alleged child victim under age 18,
- alleged abuse or neglect by a caretaker and
- the reporter has reason to believe that there is substantial risk of harm to the child's welfare such as:
 - abuse or neglect have already occurred and the child's physical, mental or emotional health is seriously damaged by the action or inaction of the caretaker or
 - the reporter has either observed first-hand the abuse or neglect or has first-hand knowledge of the abuse or neglect.

C. Prohibitions on Retaliation and Immunity from Liability:

Any person who makes a good faith report of child abuse or neglect shall not be subjected to retaliation. Louisiana law Art. 611 grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to any reporter, for the making of any report in good faith, and without knowledge of the falsity of such information, or reckless disregard for the truth of the report.

VI. POLICY RELATED INFORMATION

Forms: Mandated reports form online at

<http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=109>

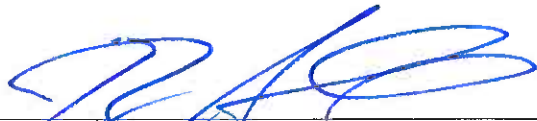
VII. POLICY HISTORY AND REVIEW CYCLE

This is an existing policy and has been revised to reflect the responsible party due to an organizational change on the executive team. This policy is subject to a five-year policy review cycle.

VIII. POLICY URL

www.susla.edu

IX. POLICY APPROVAL



Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D.
Chancellor, Southern University at Shreveport

2/21/20

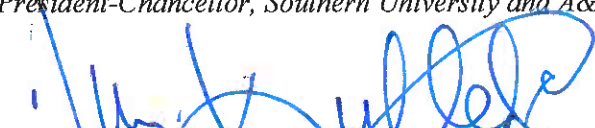
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Ray L. Belton, Ph.D.
President-Chancellor, Southern University and A&M College System

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The Honorable Attorney Domoiné D. Rutledge, Esq.
Chair - Southern University System Board of Supervisors

2-21-20

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