

## **Child Abuse/Child Protection**

Pursuant to the Child Protection Act, any school official or employee who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child may be abused or neglected or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, as defined by statute, are required to immediately report or cause a report to be made to the appropriate county department of human services or local law enforcement agency. Reports of child abuse or neglect, including the name and address of the child, family, or informant are confidential and shall not be public information.

The law defines mandatory reporters as those professionals who may work with children in the course of their professional duties. Every teacher and teacher's aide clearly falls within this definition. In the school environment, the following individuals are also included as mandatory reporters:

- Medical personnel, social workers, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, LPN's, and assistants to school nurses;
- Paid, full-time, part-time, volunteer or substitute school personnel, principals, school counselors, assistant principals, deans, truant officers, school psychologists, staff of before and after school programs, custodians, lunch room monitors, school bus drivers, school librarians and assistants to the librarians, school resource officers and law enforcement officers assigned to the school, school athletic coaches or intramural coaches or assistant to the coaches.

GISU provides annual in-service training for all administrators and teachers that provide them with information about the Child Protection Act, to assist them in recognizing and reporting instances of child abuse, and to instruct them on how to assist victims and their families.

If you suspect that a child is being abused, abandoned or neglected, please contact your local schools, DCF, your local child protective services agency, or call 9-1-1.

Department for Children and Families  
103 South Main St., Osgood 3  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2401  
(800) 649-5285

Family Services District Office - St. Albans  
27 Federal St.  
St. Albans, VT 05478-2247  
(802) 527-7741