



Paterson Prep Charter School Child Abuse and Maltreatment Protocol

PPCS recognizes the importance of child safety, both at school and at home. ALL PPCS staff are mandated reporters and are expected to act in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations when assessing and reporting suspected child abuse, neglect and maltreatment. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action which may include criminal charges and a potential civil liability.

The below guidelines are meant to help PPCS staff in their initial assessment as well as provide a general overview. If unsure at any time, the staff member should contact the School Social Worker immediately. All schools are responsible for the safety of the students. Thorough documentation and call-logs are required and will be maintained and stored by the School Social Worker.

STEP	TOPIC	DETAILS
1	Reasonable cause of initial abuse and maltreatment call	<p>Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or acts of abuse should immediately report this information to the State Central Registry (SCR). If the child is in immediate danger, call 911 as well as 1-877 NJ ABUSE (1-877-652-2873). A concerned caller does not need proof to report an allegation of child abuse and can make the report anonymously.</p> <p>Notate the Investigator's ID number. Upon completion of the call, the Investigator will inform the caller if the agency will be opening a case based on the information provided.</p>
2	Immediately notify School Principal and School Social Worker	<p>After reporting the incident, inform the School Social Worker and School Principal.</p> <p><u>*The initial caller SHOULD NOT conduct any investigation regarding the incident. DO NOT interrogate a scholar.</u></p> <p>**DO NOT notify the family that an allegation of abuse/neglect/or maltreatment has been made to DCP.</p>



Important Notes:

- Mandated reporters (all school staff are mandated reporters or persons within a school) are required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when they are presented with a reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment in a situation where he/she is acting in his or her official or professional capacity.
- If a mandated reporter makes a report with earnest concern for the welfare of a child, he or she is immune from any criminal or civil liability that might result. This is referred to as making a report in “good faith.” Also, you do not need to SEE marks or bruises to make a report.
- Reports made to DCPD are confidential; as per the school regulations.



PPCS Abuse and Maltreatment Risk Assessment Guidelines

In New Jersey, any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or acts of abuse should immediately report this information to the State Central Registry (SCR). If the child is in immediate danger, call 911 as well as **1-877 NJ ABUSE (1-877-652-2873)**. A concerned caller does not need proof to report an allegation of child abuse and can make the report anonymously.

Whenever possible, a caller should provide all of the following information:

- **Who:** The child and parent/caregiver’s name, age and address and the name of the alleged perpetrator and that person’s relationship to the child.
- **What:** Type and frequency of alleged abuse/neglect, current or previous injuries to the child and what caused you to become concerned.
- **When:** When the alleged abuse/neglect occurred and when you learned of it.
- **Where:** Where the incident occurred, where the child is now and whether the alleged perpetrator has access to the child.
- **How:** How urgent the need is for intervention and whether there is a likelihood of imminent danger for the child.

Any person who, in good faith, makes a report of child abuse or neglect or testifies in a child abuse hearing resulting from such a report is immune from any criminal or civil liability as a result of such action. Calls can be placed to the hotline anonymously.

Any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect according to the law or to comply with the provisions of the law is a disorderly person.

When a report indicates that a child may be at risk, an investigator from the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly Youth and Family Services) will promptly investigate the allegations of child abuse and neglect within 24 hours of receipt of the report. Signs of child abuse (including maltreatment) include, but are not limited to:

Physical Abuse	
Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Unexplained bruises and welts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On face, lips, mouth ● On torso, back, buttocks, thighs ● In various stages of healing ● Cluster, forming regular patterns 	Wary of adult contacts Apprehensive when other children cry Behavioral extremes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aggressiveness ● Withdrawal Frightened of parents



Physical Abuse	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reflecting shape of article used to inflict (electric cord, belt buckle) ● On several different surface areas ● Regularly appear after absence, weekend or vacation <p>Unexplained burns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks ● Immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like doughnut shaped on buttocks or genitalia) ● Patterned like electric burner, iron, etc. ● Rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso <p>Unexplained fractures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To skull, nose, facial structure ● In various stages of healing ● Multiple or spiral fractures <p>Unexplained laceration or abrasions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To mouth, lips, gums, eyes ● To external genitalia 	<p>Afraid to go home</p> <p>Reports injury by parents</p>
Physical Neglect	
Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<p>Consistent hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate dress</p> <p>Consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous activities or long periods</p> <p>Constant fatigue or listlessness</p> <p>Unattended physical problems or medical needs</p> <p>Abandonment</p>	<p>Begging, stealing food</p> <p>Extended stays at school (early arrival and late departure)</p> <p>Constantly falling asleep in class</p> <p>Alcohol or drug abuse</p> <p>Delinquency (e.g. thefts)</p> <p>States there is no caregiver</p>
Sexual Abuse	
Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<p>Difficulty in walking or sitting</p> <p>Torn, stained or bloody underclothing</p>	<p>Unwilling to change for gym or participate in PE</p> <p>Withdrawn, fantasy or infantile behavior</p>



Physical Abuse	
<p>Pain or itching in genital area</p> <p>Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vaginal or anal areas</p> <p>Venereal disease, especially in pre-teens</p> <p>Pregnancy</p>	<p>Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge</p> <p>Poor peer relationships</p> <p>Delinquent or run away</p> <p>Reports sexual assault by caregiver</p>
Emotional Maltreatment	
Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<p>Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, etc.)</p> <p>Conduct disorders (antisocial, destructive, etc.)</p> <p>Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, speech disorders, inhibition of play)</p>	<p>Behavior extremes:</p> <p>Compliant, passive</p> <p>Aggressive, demanding</p> <p>Overly adoptive behavior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inappropriately adult ● Inappropriately infant