

EFFECTIVE: 1 July 2000

REVISED: 1 December 2008
1 January 2010
20 June 2011

SUBJECT: Investigation of Child Abuse

ISSUED BY: Fernando Solorzano

I. PURPOSE:

Children, by definition, are immature in their physical, cognitive and emotional development. Many times the person who is abusing them is a person whom the child loves and trusts, and this can include a parent or caretaker. Often, the offenses take place repeatedly over an extended period of time, and in the privacy of a home. There is little if any evidence to collect to substantiate the allegation of abuse unless

On January 1, 2013 the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (PC 11164-11174.3) was amended to include University employees who come in contact with children as mandatory reporters. CSU Executive Order 1083 expanded the mandatory reporting requirement to all CSU employees

II. POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the CSU Long Beach Police Department to investigate all reported allegations of child abuse. Each member of this Department shall conduct these investigations with the responsibility to do so objectively and without bias. Furthermore, this Department shall conduct all such investigations with the following priorities:

- (a) The primary objective of the investigation shall be the protection of the child.
- (b) All members of this Department shall protect the legal rights of all:
 - (1) Victims
 - (2) Suspects
 - (3) Witnesses

III . PROCEDURES:

- (a) Upon initial receipt of the allegation, the dispatcher should:
 - (1) Gather pertinent facts (who, what, when, where, how, why)
 - (2) Begin a preliminary assessment of the risk to the child involved
 - (3) Coordinate cause associated agencies likely to respond
 - (4) University employees reporting suspected child abuse are mandated to provide, if known, at the initial phone contact with the Department the following information:
 - 1. Their name, business address/location, and telephone number
 - 2. The child's name, address, and present location
 - 3. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the child's parents or guardians
 - 4. The source of information that led them to suspect child abuse/neglect.
 - 5. The names, address, telephone number, and other personal information of person(s) who might have abused the child.
- (b) The first officer on the scene should assess the risk to each child involved, and determine what action should be taken. Assessment may include observing and photographing the scene and child (as appropriate); collecting and preserving evidence; and interviewing the following:
 - (1)

- (f) Firefighters, animal control officers, or human society officers
- (g) Clergy
- (h) Employees of child protective agencies
 - (1) Members of a police department and sheriff's department
 - (2) Child Protective Services

These mandated reporters are provided immunity from civil and criminal liability as a result of making a required or authorized report of known or suspected child abuse (Penal Code Section 11172(a)). Failure of a mandated reporter to report suspected abuse is a misdemeanor. Penal Code Sections 11167 and 11167.5 provide confidentiality for these persons.

V. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

In all known or suspected child abuse cases, the California Penal Code mandates specific reporting requirements by law enforcement, listed below:

- (a) When child abuse is known or suspected, telephone (immediately or as soon as possible) and cross-report in writing within 36 hours to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and to Child Protective Services (Penal Code Section 11166(g)).
- (b) Notify the Department of Justice (Child Abuse Investigation Report Form 8583) (Penal Code Section 11169).
- (c) Upon starting an investigation, notify the Los Angeles County Department of Social Services within 36 hours of starting the investigation (Penal Code Section 11166.3).
- (d) Current telephone numbers for mandated reporting offices are to be maintained in Communications.
- (e) In addition to the above, cross-report immediately or as soon as possible to the appropriate licensing agency if the case involves a child daycare or community childcare facility.
- (f) When child abuse is reported by a CSU employee the incident shall be reported immediately to the campus Mandated Reporting Coordinator.

Additionally, this Department is further required to make the following notifications to mandated reporters of suspected child abuse offenses:

- (a) Upon completion of the investigation, or after there has been a final disposition in the matter, we shall inform the person required by law to report the suspected child abuse of the results of the investigation and of any action the agency is taking in regard to the child or the family (Penal Code Section 11170(b)(2)).
- (b) This agency shall make information in the Department of Justice Child Abuse Central Index available to the following persons (Penal Code Section 11170(b)(1)):
 - (1) Reporting medical practitioner

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