

WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
POLICY NUMBER 5340

I. POLICY BACKGROUND/PURPOSE

- A. RCW 26.44 requires employees (including student employees) in administrative, academic and athletic departments of state and private higher education institutions to be Mandated Reporters if they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect.
- B. To ensure the broadest protection possible to the children of our community, Walla Walla Community College considers all employees Mandated Reporters for purposes of this policy.

II. AUTHORITY

RCW 26.44, RCW 28B.10.846

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. CHILD – any person under the age of eighteen years of age.
- B. ABUSE – sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or injury of a child by any person under circumstances that cause harm to the child’s health, welfare, or safety, or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for or providing care to the child.
- C. ALLOWABLE PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE – physical discipline that is reasonable and moderate and is inflicted by a parent, teacher, or guardian for purposes of restraining or correcting the child. Any use of force on a child by any other person is unlawful unless it is reasonable and moderate and is authorized in advance by the child’s parent or guardian for purposes of restraining or correcting the child.

IV. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to all employees, including student employees.

V. MANDATED REPORTER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. All Mandated Reporters must report suspected child abuse or neglect. The report must be made at the first opportunity, and never later than 48 hours after the employee has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, whether on campus or off campus. The report must be made directly to proper law enforcement or Child Protective Services.
- B. The report must include as much detail as possible and must include the identity of the accused, if known, as follows:
 - 1. The name, address, and age of the child;
 - 2. The name and address of the child’s parents, stepparents, guardians, or other person having custody of the child;
 - 3. The nature and extent of the alleged injury or injuries;

- 4. The nature and extent of the alleged neglect;
 - 5. The nature and extent of the alleged sexual abuse;
 - 6. Any evidence of previous injuries, including their nature and extent;
 - 7. Any other information that may be helpful in establishing the cause of the child's injury, injuries or death; and,
 - 8. The identity of the alleged perpetrator or perpetrators.
- C. The reporting requirement above does not apply to the discovery of abuse or neglect that occurred during childhood if it is discovered after the child has become an adult. However, if there is reasonable cause to believe other children are or may be at risk of abuse or neglect by the accused, the reporting requirement does apply and a report must be made.
- D. If the suspected child abuse may be occurring in a College program or at a College facility, College employees must also notify their supervisor or departmental administrator. If it is believed that the abuse is not occurring in a College program or at a College facility, then the reporting obligation is complete.

VI. TRAINING

Walla Walla Community College will ensure that all employees have knowledge of their reporting responsibilities.

VII. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

- A. Any person participating in the reporting of child abuse or neglect, in good faith, shall be immune from any legal liability arising out of such reporting.
- B. A person, who in good faith, cooperates in an investigation or a report of child abuse or neglect shall not be subject to civil liability out of such reporting.
- C. However, a person who, intentionally and in bad faith, knowingly makes a false report of alleged child abuse or neglect shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and violation of College policy.

VIII. REPORTING GUIDANCE

The Vice President of Human Resources is the College's designee to provide guidance regarding an employee's reporting obligations.

Policy Contact: <u> Vice President of Human Resources </u>
Approved by <i>(Department/Body)</i> : <u> Dr. Derek Brandes, President </u>
Date Originally Approved: <u> 9/7/2012 </u>
Last Reviewed/Revised on: <u> 4/10/2018 </u>