

Report of Suspected Abuse and Neglect

Office of District Operations
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MCPS Form 335-44
August 2024

INSTRUCTIONS: An oral report **must be made immediately** to Child Welfare Services, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), (commonly known as Child Protective Services (CPS)), at **240-777-4417**. For vulnerable adults, call Adult Protective Services (APS), at **240-777-3000**. **If this is an emergency, call 911 immediately.** For suspicions of abuse or neglect involving sexual assault, call the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) at **240-683-1600**. Complete and submit this written report within **48 hours**.

IF THERE IS DOUBT ABOUT WHETHER TO REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT, ALWAYS ERR IN FAVOR OF MAKING THE REPORT.

MCPS employees, contractors, or volunteers may not interrogate or collect written statements from any alleged victim, witness, or offender.

PART I—TO BE COMPLETED BY PERSON MAKING ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORT

Name _____ Job Title _____
School Name _____ E-mail: _____
School Address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ School Phone _____ - _____ - _____

PART II—INFORMATION ON CHILD OR VULNERABLE ADULT (IF KNOWN BY REPORTER)

Check type of concern: (check all that apply) Abuse (Specify: Physical and/or Sexual) Neglect Mental Injury

Child's Birthdate ____/____/____ Age ____

If sexual abuse is suspected, principal/supervisor must call Emergency Communications Center (ECC), MCPD, immediately at 240-683-1600.

Name of Child _____ Sex: F M Race _____ Grade _____

Address _____

Siblings (if known) _____
Name Age School Attending Name Age School Attending
Name Age School Attending Name Age School Attending

PART III—PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD'S OR VULNERABLE ADULT'S CARE (IF KNOWN BY REPORTER)

Name of adult responsible for child living at current address: _____

Relationship: Mother Father Guardian

Other _____

Phone #1 _____ - _____ - _____ Phone #2 _____ - _____ - _____

Phone #3 _____ - _____ - _____

Name of adult responsible for child living at current address: _____

Relationship: Mother Father Guardian

Other _____

Phone #1 _____ - _____ - _____ Phone #2 _____ - _____ - _____

Phone #3 _____ - _____ - _____

PART IV—NATURE OF INJURY OR CONCERN (Important: It is NOT the role of any MCPS employee, contractor, or volunteer to investigate to determine the validity of a case of suspected abuse or neglect.) Use MCPS Form 336-01: Addendum to MCPS Forms, if necessary. For additional information, refer to Board Policy JHC and MCPS Regulation JHC-RA.

Please describe the reasons for your concern, and state how you became aware of the situation which led to the suspicion that the child or vulnerable adult may be a victim of abuse or neglect. Include information regarding current injuries, if applicable.

Provide information concerning previous injuries or conditions of abuse or neglect to this child or vulnerable adult or others in this family situation, including previous involvement with CPS or APS:

PART V—COMPLETE REQUIRED INFORMATION BELOW

Date of Oral Report ____/____/____ Time of Oral Report ____:____ a.m./p.m.

Name of CPS or APS Staff Member to Whom Oral Report was made. (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Date and Time Principal/Supervisor was Notified. Date ____/____/____ Time ____:____ a.m./p.m.

Date this Form was Mailed to CPS or APS ____/____/____ Signature of Person Making Report _____

DISTRIBUTION:

COPY 1: CPS, DHHS, 1301 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850, Phone: 240-777-4417; or APS, DHHS, 401 Hungerford Drive, 3rd Floor, Rockville, MD 20850, Phone: 240-777-3000

COPY 2: MCPS Systemwide Child Abuse Contact, Office of District Operations, 15 West Gude Drive, Suite 200, Phone: 240-740-3215

COPY 3: Office of the State's Attorney for Montgomery County, County Office Building, 50 Maryland Avenue, 5th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850;

COPY 4: Special Victims Investigations Division, Montgomery County Police Department, 7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20855.

Suspected abuse and neglect reports contain confidential information that may not be disseminated, distributed, or copied unless directed above. Disclosing, copying, distributing, or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

IF THERE IS DOUBT ABOUT WHETHER TO REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT, ALWAYS ERR IN FAVOR OF MAKING THE REPORT.

DEFINITIONS

Abuse is:

1. **Any physical injury**, not necessarily visible, or mental injury of a child or vulnerable adult, by any person who has permanent or temporary custody or responsibility for the care or supervision of a child or vulnerable adult, under circumstances that indicate that the health or welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed.
2. **Any sexual act or acts** (whether physical injuries are sustained or not) involving sexual molestation or exploitation, including but not limited to incest, rape, or sexual offense in any degree, sodomy or unnatural or perverted sexual practices on a child or vulnerable adult, by any person who has permanent or temporary custody or responsibility for the care or supervision of a child or vulnerable adult. Sexual molestation or exploitation includes, but is not limited to, contact or conduct with a child or vulnerable adult, such as exposure, voyeurism, sexual advances, kissing, fondling, sexual crime in any degree, rape, sodomy, prostitution, trafficking, or allowing, permitting, encouraging, or engaging a child or vulnerable adult in pornographic display, photographing, filming, or depiction of a child or vulnerable adult as prohibited by law, or allowing a child or vulnerable adult to reside with or be in the regular presence of a registered sex offender.

Child refers to any MCPS student, regardless of the student's age, and any other person under the age of 18 years of age. Even though Maryland law generally does not criminalize abuse or neglect of a student over 18 years of age, MCPS expects such conduct to be reported using the same procedures for reporting abuse or neglect of a child under the age of 18 years

Mental injury is the observable, identifiable, and substantial impairment of a child's or vulnerable adult's mental or psychological ability to function that is caused by the act of any person who has permanent or temporary custody or responsibility for the care or supervision of a child or vulnerable adult.

Neglect is leaving a child or vulnerable adult unattended or other failure to give proper care or attention, or the provision of improper care or attention, to a child or vulnerable adult by any parent, guardian, family or household member, neighbor, MCPS employee, volunteer, or contractor, person in a position of authority, or any other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody of, or responsibility for, the supervision of the child or vulnerable adult under circumstances that indicate—

- a) that the child's or vulnerable adult's health or welfare is harmed or placed at substantial risk of harm, or
- b) mental injury to the child or vulnerable adult or a substantial risk of mental injury.

Vulnerable adult refers to a person 18 years of age or older who is believed by the individual reporting abuse or neglect to lack the physical or mental capacity to care for the vulnerable adult's daily needs.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. It is the policy of the Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) that all MCPS employees, contractors, and volunteers are personally and directly required to report any suspected instance of abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult:
 - Whether the alleged victim is personally known by the reporting individual or not.
 - Whenever there is reason to believe that abuse occurred in the past, even if the alleged victim is an adult when the incident comes to light.
 - Regardless of where the child or vulnerable adult lives and regardless of where the suspected abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred.
2. It is not the role of any MCPS employee, contractor, or volunteer to investigate to determine the validity of a case of suspected abuse or neglect.
3. An oral report of **SUSPECTED** child abuse and/or neglect must be made immediately:

TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND MENTAL INJURY, CALL: 240-777-4417
Child Protective Services, Department of Health and Human Services (24 hours)

TO REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A VULNERABLE ADULT, CALL: 240-777-3000
Adult Protective Services, Department of Health and Human Services

IF SEXUAL ABUSE IS SUSPECTED, PRINCIPAL/SUPERVISOR ALSO WILL CALL: 240-683-1600
Emergency Communications Center, Montgomery County Police Department

4. A written report must be submitted within 48 hours to CPS or APS, Department of Health and Human Services. Use MCPS Form 335-44, *Report of Suspected Abuse and Neglect*. Address and distribution procedures are indicated on the form. There are **no exceptions** to this requirement.
5. All reports shall be sent in a plain envelope, sealed, addressed, and marked confidential. Envelopes containing reports sent to the Office of School Support and Improvement shall be enclosed in the usual interoffice mailer.
6. Under Maryland law, any person who in good faith makes or participates in making a report of abuse or neglect or who participates in an investigation or a resultant judicial proceeding is immune from any civil liability or criminal penalty that would otherwise result from making a report of abuse or neglect, or participating in an investigation or a resultant judicial proceeding.
7. Any MCPS employees, contractors, or volunteers, acting in their professional or service capacity for MCPS, who suspect child abuse and/or neglect and knowingly fail to report it, or intentionally prevent or interfere with reporting, shall be subject to discipline up to and including suspension for misconduct in office, discontinuation of contract services, or discontinuation of volunteering privileges, as appropriate. In addition, any certification issued under the authority of the Maryland State Department of Education or another licensing or certification board may be suspended or revoked, based on the criteria set forth in Maryland law.

For additional information, refer to Board Policy JHC and MCPS Regulation JHC-RA.