

### Child Abuse and Neglect Policy

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|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Name of Program:   | (License/Registration/CC Number):  |                       |
| Program Type (Choose One):<br><input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Center<br><input type="checkbox"/> License Exempt Program<br><input type="checkbox"/> Family/Group Child Care<br><input type="checkbox"/> Head Start | Director/Administrator/Owner Name: | Contact Phone Number: |
| Address:   |                                    |                       |
| City/Zip Code:   |                                    |                       |

**Rationale:**

Child care providers are mandated reporters and have the responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves. As a mandated reporter, caregiving staff at \_\_\_\_\_ are an important part of the system to protect children.

**The Child Abuse and Neglect Law:**

*“Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), originally enacted in 1974 (Public Law 93-247) and reauthorized in 2010, is the largest body of legislation with regard to the fair, ethical, and **legal** treatment of children and is intended to keep them free from all forms of **abuse** including physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological,”* National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education.

Staff should look for all forms of abuse and neglect, including but not limited to:

- Frequent injuries or accidents.
- Unexplained burns, cuts, bites, fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school (explanation doesn’t match the injury).
- Child is always watchful and on alert.
- Injuries appear to have a pattern or resemble an item such as marks from a hand or belt.
- Child shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home.
- Child arrives each day very hungry, unclean (body or clothing) or is covered in bug bites, takes food to eat at home (suggesting that the child is not receiving proper care at home).
- Child may share information with staff regarding things that are happening in the home which places the child in danger (e.g., parents use of illegal drugs or substances, or someone in the home that is abusive).



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Policy:

\_\_\_\_\_’s staff are trained in child abuse and neglect and their responsibility as a mandated reporter. Staff look for all forms of child abuse and neglect. Our program has a procedure for reporting suspected instances of child abuse and neglect these instances are reported to:

1) DSS Office of Child Protective and Preventive Services with The Office of Out of Home Abuse and Neglect (OHAN). DSS has implemented a centralized phone number for all counties to report suspected cases, or this may be done online at the following link. Both can be reported 365 days per year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-888-227-3487 or <https://dss.sc.gov/child-well-being/report-childabuse-and-neglect/>.

AND

2) DSS/ABC Quality at 1-800-876-2223.

Mandated Reporter Law Section 63-7-310. <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t63c007.php>

All staff cooperate with SC DSS staff during any on-site investigations and/or retrieval of necessary documentation to include video footage. All staff and children’s records will be released as appropriate and on request.

What is your program’s procedure for reporting suspected child abuse and/or neglect of a child at home?

What is your program’s procedure for reporting suspected child abuse and/or neglect of a child by another employee?

**Child Abuse and Neglect Policy**

How frequently are staff trained in child abuse and neglect and mandated reporting requirements? When does this occur?

At \_\_\_\_\_, staff have been informed, read, understand, and agree to implement/abide by the Child Abuse and Neglect policy as written. Our program understands that non-compliance with this policy can result in adverse actions.

Print Name of Authorized Personnel:

Signature of Authorized Personnel:

Date: