

FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION

TITLE - **CHILD ABUSE**

POLICY - **JLDBD-R**

Approval Date - 08/12/97

Cross Reference -

Resolution # - 381/97

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Legal Reference -

Last Reviewed - 13/11/12

The following comments are intended to clarify certain points contained in the model policy statement and to provide additional background for discussion at the local level.

Section I (b) (c) (d): Specific signs and symptoms, by which child abuse may be recognised, are contained in the Teachers' Protocol on Child Abuse, prepared by the Manitoba Teachers' Society. In addition in-service presentations are also available from Manitoba Education. The most useful assistance in determining whether a child is the victim of abuse or not will be found, however in consultation with local child caring agencies and police.

Section I(d): While the Guidelines acknowledge that emotional abuse is a major concern, they state that it does not require police intervention. Consequently it is recommended that the appropriate resource for reporting suspected emotional abuse be the child caring agency only.

Section I(e): The question has been raised whether this policy statement, and indeed the Guidelines themselves, apply in the case of a teacher or-other school employee who abuses the child. Both the Guidelines and the present policy statement were primarily designed to deal with intra-family abuse. Nevertheless, the designation of "a person in charge of a child " would certainly seem to include a teacher. At the same time, the case of a teacher who commits a physical or sexual assault may also be seen as an instance of third party assault, which is defined in the Guidelines as "...abuse which occurs outside the family." Whether an assault committed by a teacher is to be considered technically an instance of child abuse or of third part assault, the reporting procedures described in the present policy statement are deemed to be appropriate.

Section 3(a): It is to be emphasised that it is the person who suspects the abuse who has the legal responsibility to report. At the same time care must be taken to ensure that the school principal is kept aware of the proceedings. This sample policy statement mentions the possibility of a written report as follow-up to the immediate oral report. It should be stressed that, while written reports may have certain advantages, including their ability to enforce accountability on the part of both reporter arid receiving agency, they are not required by law end may be more open to breaches of confidentiality.

Section 3 (b): The value of consultation in the form of face-to-face case conferencing should be emphasised. Besides providing a useful check on inappropriate reporting, consultation allows assistance and resources to be mobilised on behalf of a child who may be at risk before a crisis point is reached" That is, it provides a mechanism for positive developmental action.

Section 3 (e): While it is outside the scope of this policy statement to detail proposals for action by the child caring agencies, it has been suggested that a formal reporting back to the school by the child caring agency take place.

