

217.1 Protection of Minors on Campus -- Appendix A: Mandated Reporters & Child Maltreatment

Arkansas Code § 12-18-402(a) requires certain public officials, including “a school official, including without limitation institutions of higher education”¹ to report instances of suspected child maltreatment. Specifically, Arkansas law requires such “mandated reporters” to report if they: (1) have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to child maltreatment or has died as a result of child maltreatment or (2) observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in child maltreatment. Arkansas Code § 12-18-103(7) defines “child maltreatment” as “abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, or abandonment.”

A regulation issued by the Arkansas Department of Human Services indicates that “school officials” required to report maltreatment includes “any person authorized by a school to exercise administrative or supervisory authority over employees, students or agents of the school,” and also includes “a volunteer exercising administrative or supervisory authority in a program conducted by a school.”² Furthermore, under the regulation, the definition of “school” includes any “[t]wo-year or four-year college or university.”³ Failure to report child maltreatment by a mandated reporter may have civil or criminal consequences. Aside from persons that are required to report, the Arkansas Code provides that any person who has reasonable cause to suspect or observes child maltreatment may make a report.

1 Individuals designated as “mandated reporters” also include, but are not limited to, child care workers, nurses, medical personnel, resident interns, mental health professionals, law enforcement officers, physicians, domestic abuse advocates, rape crisis advocates or volunteers, victim assistance professionals or volunteers, school counselors, social workers, and teachers. Ark. Code § 12-18-402.

2 Ark. Dept. of Human Servs., Div. of Children and Family Servs., Policy & Procedure Manual, Appendix I: Glossary.

3 Id.