



Policy Name:	Child Protection Minors on Campus
Effective Date:	May 15, 2012
Last Revision Date:	N/A
Last Review Date:	November 8, 2021
Approving Authority:	
Responsible Office:	Human Resources
Category:	Campus Health and Safety

Purpose

To ensure the fulfillment of Northwest employees and anyone serving as a staff member or volunteer through the University and/or private entities engaging in University- sponsored activities in protecting children as vulnerable members of society and the obligation that is mandated by Missouri Law. Specifically, this policy addresses preventing abuse of minor children.

Definitions

Abuse of a minor child for this policy is defined as serious endangerment of a child’s physical or mental health due to injury by act or omission, including acts of sexual abuse, all as further described in R.S.Mo Section 210.110 as currently enacted and/or as amended. Sexual abuse includes contacts or interactions between a child and an adult when the child is being used as an object of sexual gratification for the adult. A child is abused whether or not it is initiated by the child and whether or not there is discernible harmful outcome.

Reporting

R.S.Mo. 210.115 as currently enacted and/or as amended identifies those who are responsible for reports of abuse and neglect, and for such persons, the following protocol must be used when reporting incidents that allegedly occurred on campus:

- A University employee who has reason to believe that a minor has been abused on campus; on property owned or leased by the University; while members of the faculty, staff or student body are participating in a University-connected activity off campus; or who has received a report of such alleged abuse while assuming responsibility for the care of the child, whether the reported abuse occurred in conjunction with a University event or not, must report this information to the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738. After the hotline call is made, a report should also be made to University Police.
- A student who has reason to believe that a minor has been abused on campus; on property owned or leased by the University; while members of the faculty, staff or student body are participating in a University-connected activity off campus; or who has received a report of such alleged abuse must report this information to University Police. The student may also choose to make a report to the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738.

Reporting of actions occurring on campus for Non-Required reporters

A minor and/or their parents or guardians or anyone external to the University who has knowledge about the abuse of a minor that occurred on University property or that involved a University employee or student during the course of a University connected activity off campus is urged to report the alleged abuse to University Police immediately. Additionally, reporters may make a report with the Child Abuse Hotline as well. University employees or students who receive such reports should proceed as outlined above.

Related Statutes, Policies or Requirements

Missouri Revised Statute:

*210.115.1. When any physician, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, resident, intern, nurse, hospital or clinic personnel that are engaged in the examination, care, treatment or research of persons, and any other health practitioner, psychologist, mental health professional, social worker, day care center worker or other child-care worker, juvenile officer, probation or parole officer, jail or detention center personnel, **teacher**, principal or **other school official**, minister as provided by section 352.400, peace officer or law enforcement official, or other person with responsibility for the care of children has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that person shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the division in accordance with the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183. As used in this section, the term "abuse" is not limited to abuse inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care, custody and control as specified in section 210.110, but shall also include abuse inflicted by any other person.*

2. Whenever such person is required to report pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183 in an official capacity as a staff member of a medical institution, school facility, or other agency, whether public or private, the person in charge or a designated agent shall be notified immediately. The person in charge or a designated agent shall then become responsible for immediately making or causing such report to be made to the division. Nothing in this section, however, is meant to preclude any person from reporting abuse or neglect.