

Policy Title: Child Abuse Reporting Policy

Policy Summary: This policy explains who is required to report child abuse, when child abuse reporting is required, and the process for reporting.

Policy Category: Administration & Operations

Policy Owner: Title IX Coordinator

Policy Summary

Consistent with Iowa Code § 261.9, this policy requires anyone who, in the scope of their employment responsibilities examines, attends, counsels, or treats a child, to report suspected physical or sexual abuse of a child. University Reporters must report child abuse when they see, know about, or reasonably suspect the abuse of a child. A report should be made within 24 hours of becoming aware of the suspected abuse. The types of abuse that are required to be reported under this policy include any physical and/or sexual abuse of a child.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to explain who is required to report child abuse, when child abuse reporting is required, and the process for reporting. Drake University (“Drake” or the “University”) strives to protect the welfare of minors on its campus. This includes minors who are on Drake’s campus or participating in off-campus University-sponsored programs.

Scope

The scope of this policy is intended to be broad, and any uncertainty about whether reporting is required should be resolved in favor of making a report.

Definitions

Child: Any person under the age of eighteen years.

Physical abuse: Non-accidental acts or omissions that cause, or fail to prevent, physical injury to a child.

Sexual abuse: The commission of a sexual offense according to Iowa law, including rape, sexual assault, molestation, incest, indecent exposure, or exploitation of a child in a manner in which the child is used for gratification or sexual enjoyment by another person.

Policy

A. Who must Report

Consistent with Iowa Code § 261.9, this policy requires anyone who, in the scope of their employment responsibilities, examines, attends, counsels, or treats a child, to report suspected physical or sexual abuse of a child. This includes most University employees, including, but not limited to faculty, coaches, student employees, administrators, and staff (“University Reporters”). If you are not sure whether you are required to report, this policy encourages you

to err on the side of caution and report. You do not need to have proof that abuse has occurred in order to be required to report.

This policy does not require reporting of information gleaned during the course of conversations to which professional privilege would otherwise apply under the law (e.g. attorney/client communications).

B. When to Report

University Reporters must report child abuse when they see, know about, or reasonably suspect the abuse of a child. A report should be made within twenty-four hours after becoming aware of the suspected abuse. The types of abuse that are required to be reported under this policy include any physical and/or sexual abuse of a child.

C. Reporting Procedures

In the event of an emergency, first call 911.

Suspected abuse must be reported to both:

1. Drake University's Title IX Coordinator: Phone (515) 271-4956, Email titleix@drake.edu or the Drake University Department of Public Safety: Phone: (515) 271-2222.
2. The Iowa Department of Public Safety: Phone (515) 725-6000, Email dciinfo@dps.state.ia.us.

When making a report of child abuse under this policy the University Reporter shall provide the following information to the best of their knowledge:

- Name of the alleged victim(s);
- Name of the alleged perpetrator(s);
- Time and date of the incidents being reported;
- Location where the incidents occurred; and
- Any additional information known about the abuse.

D. Mandatory Reporters Under Iowa Code § 232.69

It is possible that some University Reporters, as well as others who interact with minors who are on Drake's campus or participating in off-campus University-sponsored programs may be Mandatory Reporters of child abuse under Iowa Code § 232.69. These individuals have additional responsibilities to report *all forms* of child abuse as described in Iowa Code § 232.68(2). Under § 232.69, Mandatory Reporters must report suspected abuse to the Department of Human Services. Child abuse can be reported to the Department of Human Services by calling the toll-free child abuse reporting hotline 24 hours a day: 1-800-362-2178.

The University encourages everybody, including those who are not Mandatory Reporters under Iowa Code § 232.69, to report all forms of child abuse to the Department of Human Services in addition to reporting to the Title IX Coordinator and the Iowa Department of Public Safety under this policy.

Last Review Date: July 2023

Effective Date: July 2012