

ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING

Introduction

Under Oklahoma law, technology center employees have varying legal obligations to report abuse, neglect and exploitation. In addition, technology center employees have an obligation to report suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation or trafficking affecting students to the appropriate authorities ~~principals or other technology center officials~~ to ensure the student's safety and welfare while at the technology center or participating in technology center activities. The purpose of this policy is to provide directives and guidelines to assist technology center employees in fulfilling their legal responsibility.

Definitions

Certain terms used in this policy have the following definitions:

1. "Abuse, neglect or exploitation" shall include, but is not limited to all of the following:
 - a. "Abuse" is defined as:
 - i. harm or threatened harm through action or inaction to a child's health, welfare (including non-accidental physical pain or injury, or mental injury), or safety, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or negligent treatment or maltreatment, including but not limited to the failure or omission to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care or protection from harm or threatened harm, by a person responsible for the child's health or welfare. (10A OKLA. STAT. § 1-1-105);
 - ii. willful or malicious harm or threatened harm or failure to protect from harm or threatened harm to the health, safety, or welfare of a child under eighteen (18) years of age by another, or the act of willfully or maliciously injuring, torturing or maiming a child under eighteen (18) years of age by another. (21 OKLA. STAT. § 843.5); or
 - iii. the intentional infliction of physical pain, injury, or mental anguish or the deprivation of food, clothing, shelter, or medical care to an incapacitated person, partially incapacitated person, or a minor by a guardian or other person responsible for providing these services. (30 OKLA. STAT. § 1-111).
 - b. "Neglect" is defined as any of the following:
 - i. the failure or omission to provide any of the following:
 1. adequate nurturance and affection, food, clothing, shelter, sanitation, hygiene, or appropriate education,
 2. medical, dental, or behavioral health care,
 3. supervision or appropriate caretakers, or
 4. special care made necessary by the physical or mental condition of the child,
 - ii. the failure or omission to protect a child from exposure to any of the following: