



Policy: JLF
Subject: Reporting Child Abuse/Child Protection

Policy:

The Red River Valley School Division Board of Trustees expects that children in need of protection will be reported appropriately.

Protocol:

All Red River Valley School Division employees are required to abide by the Child and Family Services Act, subsection 18(1) which states that "where an employee has information that leads the person reasonably to believe that a child is or might be in need of protection, the person shall forthwith report the information to an agency or to a parent or guardian of the child".

A child is considered in need of protection if the life, health or emotional well-being is being endangered by either an act or an omission of a person.

Procedure:

Any disclosure of any type of emotional, sexual or physical abuse or neglect should always be reported. Any behaviours, comments or suspicious events should also be reported. Suspicion is always enough to make a report, and there is never any need for "hard evidence".

Any person who may have any information which leads them to reasonably believe that a child is in need of protection must, by law, report to the parent/legal guardian or to Child and Family Services.

Generally, the reporter should be the person who received the disclosure however if that person feels more comfortable reporting with the assistance of someone else, they should seek out the school's guidance counselor or school administrator for assistance.

The identity of the reporter is protected by law. This protection may end should the case proceed to court and testimony is required.