



Breaking the Silence Child Abuse Awareness Training

A Father's Justice



The Scenario

During a parent conference, Mr. Fuentes backhands his son across the mouth, bringing blood to the surface. What do you do?

Discussion Begins

What do you do?

Do you report? If so, to whom? If so, when? If you don't, what might happen to the son? To you? To your school? To LAUSD?

If you report and the Local Law Enforcement Agency or the Department of Children and Family Services tells you...

...to **handle it administratively**, what do you do next?

...**they will investigate**, what do you do next?

Filing a Report

If an employee does not have reasonable suspicion of child abuse, he/she may ask clarifying questions; however, if an employee has reasonable suspicion he/she must file a Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) without further questioning.

In order to comply with the mandated reporting requirements, an employee must always file a SCAR if he/she has reasonable suspicion of child abuse, even if

the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) or the Local Law Enforcement Agency indicates to "handle it administratively."

Required steps for filing a SCAR:

1. Phone call immediately or ASAP to a Child Protective Agency (CPA)
2. Written report mailed to the CPA within 36 hours of receiving the information

SCARs must be filed with a CPA – either DCFS or a Local Law Enforcement Agency. Generally, reports are filed with the DCFS if they involve allegations of abuse or neglect by an in-home perpetrator. Generally, reports are filed with a Local Law Enforcement Agency if they involve allegations of abuse by a District employee or an out-of-home perpetrator or allegations of moderate to severe abuse by an in-home perpetrator.

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Legal Response

The safety and well-being of every student must be the first and foremost priority for all employees. As such, immediate action should be taken to remove any student from any situation which threatens her/his safety or well-being.

A SCAR must be filed with a CPA. For students who are in imminent danger, a reporter should call the Local Law Enforcement Agency. To protect the student, the reporter should send the student to another area of the campus or to the school nurse while the conference continues (giving you an opportunity to stall for the police to arrive).

If the father insists on leaving with his son, do not attempt to physically prevent him from doing so. The Local Law Enforcement Agency should be contacted and advised that the father has left the school with his son.

Emotional Support

Listen

Seeing a parent treat his child this way may elicit a strong emotional reaction. By remaining calm you have a better chance of diffusing the situation. Be aware of your tone and response. Taking notes might be helpful with remembering the details to be included in the SCAR.

Protect

Take steps to ensure immediate safety by encouraging the parent and child to physically separate from each other, while you call for assistance. Following your school's safety plan and complying with your legal obligations to follow mandated reporting procedures is the best way to ensure immediate safety for all those involved.

Connect

Convey concern for the student's well-being. Every school site has protocols, systems, and resources to support and address student safety and well-being. This is an opportunity to become familiar with and use the procedures, policies, and resources at your work site.

Model

Maintain a professional and calm level of emotions and reactions to help them achieve balance and restore a calm environment. Do not express shock, anger or disbelief at the possible perpetrator or event.

Teach

Inform the family that schools have an obligation to ensure everyone's safety while on campus. Teach students to seek help and identify who they can go to for support at home and school. Students may have different reactions, even to the same event. Create an environment where students are safe and healthy to learn and achieve academically.

