



MANDATED REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT DURING THIS PERIOD OF VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

Emotional, Physical, or Sexual Abuse or Neglect

Contact Child Protective Services (CPS) at 855-444-3811

(School staff are mandatory reporters.)

After a report is made, complete DHS form 3200 found at

https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7119---,00.html

(Inform Your Building Administrator and School Counselor or Social Worker of the Referral)

Teachers and other school staff play a pivotal role in monitoring the well-being of their students. Observation of students is difficult under conditions of virtual instruction. The stresses families are experiencing during the pandemic increases the potential for child abuse and neglect. **School staff do not determine whether abuse or neglect is occurring; they report their concerns. It is the responsibility of Child Protective Services to assess the situation.**

Some Signs to Look for with Students during On-Line Learning

1. Decrease in class participation and in completing assignments.
2. Appearing withdrawn, anxious, frightened, or confused.
3. Talking about feelings of hopelessness, worthlessness, and sadness.
4. Change in appearance.
5. Always or often wearing clothing that cover their body.
6. Wearing sun glasses or hats that cover the eyes/face.
7. Looking consistently unclean.
8. Making general statement suggesting distress, such as...
 - It doesn't matter anymore.
 - No one really cares.
 - You don't understand what I deal with.
9. Bruises, broken, bones, or other observable injuries.
10. Writings or drawings that suggest the possibility of abuse or neglect.
11. Writings or drawings indicating knowledge of adult issues inappropriate for their age.
12. Hearing or seeing physical or verbal aggression.

While these signs may be the result of other issues in a student's life, it is important not to disregard them. Consulting with your school's counselor, social worker, or psychologist may assist as you attempt to consider your concerns. The school staff member that interacts with the student and makes the observation(s), however, is the person legally obliged to report to CPS.