

# SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

---

2020



# CHILD ABUSE DEFINED

- ❖ Child abuse is defined as an injury or a pattern of injuries to a child, that is **NON-ACCIDENTAL**. Child Abuse includes non-accidental physical injury, physical neglect, sexual abuse, exploitation, e.g. sexual trafficking and emotional abuse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngGzH4BE0dE>

# FIVE TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical: The non-accidental physical injury of a child. Physical abuse is the most visible and widely recognized form of child abuse.

Sexual: Anything done with a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or older child.

Emotional: A pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth.

Neglect: The pattern of failure of a parent, guardian, or other caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs.

Exploitation: Treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work. (Children are often times trafficked and exploited)

# GUIDELINES FOR SUPERVISION

- ❖ Children eight years or younger should not be left alone.
- ❖ Children between the ages of 9-12 years old, based on level of maturity, may be left alone for brief (less than two hours ) periods of time.
- ❖ Children 13 and older, who are at an adequate level of maturity, may be left alone and may perform the role of babysitter, as authorized by the parent, for up to twelve hours.

# COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

- ❖ The buying, selling, or trading of sex acts with a child.
- ❖ Branding
- ❖ An older boyfriend or male friend or relative
- ❖ Withdrawn and uncommunicative
- ❖ Possession of large amounts of money
- ❖ Poor personal hygiene and/or inappropriate dress
- ❖ Runaway or lack of adult supervision



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. This crime occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor services against his/her will.

Victims are forced to provide labor or commercial sex in many situations, including the following venues/industries:

## Sex Trafficking

- ❖ Massage Businesses
- ❖ Residential Brothel
- ❖ Truck Stops
- ❖ Escort Services
- ❖ Hotel-based Commercial Sex
- ❖ Street Based Commercial Sex

## Labor Trafficking

- ❖ Agriculture
- ❖ Health & Beauty Services
- ❖ Domestic Work
- ❖ Restaurants
- ❖ Construction
- ❖ Traveling sales crew

# POSSIBLE INDICATORS

- ❖ Exhibit changes in behaviors or school participation, i.e. spike in truancy; performs severely under grade level.
- ❖ History of homelessness or running away from home.
- ❖ Displays heightened sense of duty or obligation to family, has unreasonable or inappropriate chores or duties.
- ❖ Works for little or no pay, or the employer keeps identification documents and/or confiscates wages.
- ❖ Accumulates debt to employer while at work or recruited with promises of easy money.
- ❖ Involved in relationships with an older adult, receives frequent gifts, student may be picked up from school by their controller.
- ❖ Exhibits sexual behavior that is high risk and/or inappropriate for his/her age.

# NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE



**1-888-373-7888**

**Confidential / Toll –Free / 24/7**

**[www.HumanTraffickingHotline.org](http://www.HumanTraffickingHotline.org)**

**Interpreters available**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wkw5Oubc2GI>**





# CRUELTY TO CHILDREN / CHILD ENDANGERMENT

- ❖ Willfully depriving a child of the necessary sustenance to the extent that the child's health or well-being is jeopardized
- ❖ Causing excessive physical or mental pain
- ❖ Intentionally allows a child to witness the commission of a forcible felony, battery, family violence
- ❖ Prohibition against presence of children during manufacture of methamphetamine

# WHO'S MANDATED TO REPORT:

- ▶ School Administrators
- ▶ Teachers
- ▶ Counselors
- ▶ Nurses
- ▶ Psychologists
- ▶ Support Staff
- ▶ Social Worker<sub>(school district designee)</sub>
- ▶ Office Staff
- ▶ Cafeteria Staff
- ▶ Custodial Staff
- ▶ Bus Drivers
- ▶ Volunteers
- ▶ Support agencies/staff working in the building

# PROTOCOL FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED ABUSE

- ❖ When abuse is suspected **IMMEDIATELY** notify the School Counselor, Administrator or Social Worker.
- ❖ Refrain from interviewing the student in cases of severe physical abuse or suspected sexual abuse.
- ❖ The Support Service staff member or administrator suspecting abuse should complete an electronic Social Work referral.
- ❖ The Principal or Designee should **IMMEDIATELY** contact the Social Worker. (If the Social Worker cannot be reached, the School Social Work Coordinator's office should be contacted immediately.)
- ❖ For each report of abuse, the School Social Work Department will assign a social worker who will be responsible for investigating and reporting the abuse to the DeKalb County Department of Family and Children Services, Child Protective Service, or to the DeKalb County Police Department, Youth Division, in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5.

\*\*\*Children should not be subjected to multiple interviews at school. Once a child discloses abuse to any school employee, the School Social Worker should be contacted. DFCS will arrange for a forensic interview. All school employees who interview children regarding suspected abuse are subject to testify in court.

# DO'S AND DON'T:

## Do

1. Be aware of unusual marks or behaviors
2. Be an advocate for children by reporting
3. Allow the child to share
4. Take notes of student's disclosure
5. Inform the student that you must notify the school social worker
6. Continue to treat the student as you normally would
7. Exercise confidentiality

## Don't

1. Conduct an in-depth investigation
2. Interview the student regarding the allegation
3. Attempt to contact the parent or guardians
4. Use your own value system as the determining factor for reporting
5. Be afraid to follow your instincts

\*\*\*Children should not be subjected to multiple interviews. Once a child discloses abuse to any school employee, the School Social Worker should be contacted. DFCS will arrange for a forensic interview. All school employees who interview children regarding suspected abuse are subject to testify in court.

# STAFF ALLEGATIONS

- ❖ School employees are not permitted to utilize corporal punishment
- ❖ Do not touch students when you are upset or frustrated, this may be construed as a “push” or “grab.”
- ❖ Do not allow students to remain in your home, overnight, for any reason.
- ❖ If a student alleges that he/she has been abused, an investigation may occur, including the Office of Legal Affairs, witnesses and a School Social Worker from a different school.
- ❖ Comments to students should be school related, positive and constructive.

🔵 2018–2019 DCSD Staff Allegations: 317

<http://wgow.com/news/top-stories/2019/05/03/durand-teacher-arrested-for-inappropriate-relationship-with-14-year-old-student/>

# DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## EXCERPT FROM BOARD POLICY (JDA)

---

- ❖ Principals and assistant principals, in order to maintain proper control and discipline of students under their care and supervision, may, in the exercise of sound discretion, administer consequences to students who violate school rules. However, school personnel may not use **corporal punishment** as a consequence with students under their care and supervision

# Report Child Abuse



DFCS:  
(855) GA CHILD  
(855) 422-4453

All employees of the DeKalb County School District, including all administrators, principals, teachers, visiting teachers, school social workers, school psychologists, and guidance counselors, who have reason or cause to believe that a child under the age of eighteen has been abused must report any such abuse to the School Social Work Department as soon as reasonably possible. Abuse includes physical injury inflicted by a **parent or caretaker** other than by accidental means, neglect or exploitation by a parent or caretaker, and sexual abuse or exploitation.

# SUICIDAL IDEATION

---


LISTEN, LOOK AND REPORT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BByqa7bhto>



# SELF-DIRECTED VIOLENCE



- ❖ **Suicidal Ideation:** Thinking about, considering, or planning suicide.
  - ❖ **Suicide Attempt:** A non-fatal, self-directed, potentially injurious behavior with an intent to die as a result of the behavior; might not result in injury.
  - ❖ **Suicide Interrupted:** The person is interrupted, by an outside circumstance, from the potentially self-injurious act.
  - ❖ **Suicide Aborted:** The person begins to take steps toward making a suicide attempt, but stop themselves before they actually have engaged in any self-destructive behavior.
  - ❖ **Preparatory Acts:** Acts or preparation toward imminently making a suicide attempt.
  - ❖ **Suicide:** Death caused by self-directed injury with an intent to die as a result of the behavior.
- 

# Non-Suicidal Self-Injury

- ❖ Used to refer to situations where self-injury has no suicidal intent.
- ❖ Cutting, scratching, carving words into skin, burning with cigarettes, pulling out large amounts of hair, interfering with healing of wounds, banging or punching objects to the point of bruising or bleeding

People engage in non-suicidal self-injury:

- ❖ To escape unbearable anguish
- ❖ To change the behavior of others
- ❖ To escape from a situation
- ❖ To show desperation to others
- ❖ To relieve tension
- ❖ To seek help

# LOOK & LISTEN

## Look

- ❖ Increased apathy
- ❖ Withdrawal from friends, family, or society
- ❖ Increased risk taking or self destructive behaviors
- ❖ Sudden decline or improvement in academic performance
- ❖ Recent disappointment or rejections
- ❖ Death of friend or family member, especially if by suicide
- ❖ Assignments, including drawings which may indicate suicidal ideation

## Listen

- ❖ “I wish I were dead.”
- ❖ “I won’t be around much longer.”
- ❖ “If (such and such) does or doesn’t happen, I’ll kill myself.”
- ❖ “I’m going to end it all.”
- ❖ “Who cares if I’m dead anyway.”

# PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING

- Report any threats of self-harm, observations or concerns to the Counselor and/or Administrator immediately.
- Keep all information about the child private (don't talk about it with other teachers)
- The School Counselor or Administrator will meet with the student, notify the parent, and contact the school social worker.
- The counselor will also complete the SIP, determine level, complete forms, secure signatures and provide copies to the parent. In cases of Severe Risk, the child should not be left alone and a parent pick-up should be requested.
- The Student Support Services Team, including the Counselor and School Social Worker will meet with the child and conference with the parent. The social worker will also provide resources to the parent as appropriate.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/video/mother-of-gay-alabama-teen-who-committed-suicide-reflects-on-her-child-s-life-1504656451741>



# SPECIAL GROUPS


Homeless, Migrant, Foster Care



# McKinney Vento Act (1987)



The McKinney Vento Act defines homelessness as children or youth residing in:

- ❖ Emergency shelters (domestic violence, children's home)
  - ❖ Hotels/ Motels
  - ❖ Transitional Housing Program
  - ❖ Doubled Up with friends or relatives due to economic hardship/ eviction
  - ❖ Unsheltered/ Substandard Housing (abandoned/vacant homes, no water or electricity)
- 

# GEORGIA'S HOMELESS YOUTH DATA

**More than 39,571 of Georgia's youth experience homelessness each year**

## **Subgroups Of Homeless Children/ Youth**

Subgroup Type	SY 2015-2016	SY 2016-2017	SY 2017-2018
Migratory children/youth	281	237	222
Unaccompanied homeless youth	2,247	2,314	2,423
Children with disabilities (IDEA)	6,304	6,390	6,769
Limited English Proficient (LEP) students	1,524	1,454	1,886

Note: These subgroups are not mutually exclusive. It is possible for homeless students to be counted in more than one subgroup. GADOE FY18 McKinney Vento Data

Four Year Data Trends in DeKalb County School District:

2016- 2017 Homeless students enrolled in DCSD: 2204

2017- 2018 Homeless students enrolled in DCSD: 1567

2018- 2019 Homeless students enrolled in DCSD: 1872

2019- 2020 Homeless students enrolled in DCSD: 1628

# McKinney Vento Provisions

The McKinney Vento Act protects the educational rights of homeless children. Students who are homeless can:

- ❖ Attend school of origin or school zoned for the primary nighttime residence
- ❖ Enrollment in school without required documents\*

Students are also eligible for:

- ❖ Free Breakfast and Lunch
- ❖ Assistance with immunizations, school supplies, school uniforms, and transportation
- ❖ Paid cap, gown and diploma fees for seniors pending available funds
- ❖ Assistance with Credit Recovery classes pending available funds





# McKinney Vento Dispute Resolution Resolution Process

## **Parent/Guardian**

If a parent does not agree with the school selected for enrollment, based on school of origin, school zone or the best interest of their child determination, the decision may be disputed with the local school. Disputes may be filed based on lack of full participation and transportation. Wherever possible an attempt to resolve this matter at the local school via conferences and/or written correspondence should be sought. Parent must dispute school's decision within 72 hours of notification from the school administrator. If the resolution is unsatisfactory to the parent/guardian, the Parent Dispute Resolution Form should be completed and submitted to the District Homeless Education Liaison.

## **Local School**

The school principal should provide the parent with a written notification letter disputing the decision if school personnel does not agree that the school of origin or zoned school is appropriate for the student (s) and that full participation is not being denied. The principal should contact the District Homeless Education Liaison and report that the school wants to file a dispute per Board Policy JBC (1) and Regulation JBC(1)-R(1) regarding the school of origin, zoned school, or full participation and complete a written explanation of reasons for the dispute on school letterhead.


According to the McKinney -Vento Act, Provision 722 3 (E), "The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth will be provided a written explanation of the school's decision regarding the enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decisions." The school principal must complete a form entitled "Written Notification of Enrollment Decision" on the school letterhead and give a copy to the parent. The parent should also be given a copy of the DCSD Homeless Education Program (HEP) brochure which advises the parent (s) and the student (s) of their rights. The child must be enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought until the dispute is resolved.

# Migrant Education Program



A federal program that provides supplemental educational services to eligible migrant children and youth (Title I, Part C, of No Child Left Behind Act/ESEA). (*ESOL is Title III*). Services are designed to help reduce the educational disruptions and address challenges that result from repeated moves.

## Eligibility Criteria:

- ❖ The child/youth must have moved within the past 3 years across state or school district lines.
  - ❖ And the child's guardian or parent must have moved in order to obtain work in a qualifying agricultural or fishing activity (youth may move on their own).
  - ❖ The child/youth must be:
    - Younger than 22 and
    - Has not graduated from high school or earned a General Education Diploma (GED)
- 

# Students in Foster Care

Provided with rights similar to that of homeless students including:

- **School of Origin Rights:** Children in foster care may remain at their school of origin regardless of address.
- **Transportation** must be provided for students to remain in their school of origin.




# Infinite Campus: Teacher Concern Cue



Teachers should utilize the Concern Cue for cases which fall into the following categories: academic, attendance, substance abuse, family, foster care, guardianship, health, homelessness, pregnancy, purposivity, socioeconomic concerns (food, clothing) and other matters as appropriate.

**\*\***Please note, the Teacher Concern Cue should not be utilized for referrals regarding Child Abuse or Suicidal Ideation. Those referrals should follow our normal process, which includes advising the school counselor or administrator, who will notify the School Social Worker.



# AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbSp88PBe9E>





ANY  
QUESTIONS  
?

