

Mandated Reporter Information for School Volunteers

O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5 and
GA Code Ann., § 19-7-5

2012 Criminal Justice Reform Act

As of July 1, 2012:

All employees & volunteers working within a school or organization who work directly with children are now mandatory reporters.

Reporting Requirements

- Reports must be made to the Principal or his or her designee immediately, but no later than within **24 hours when there is reasonable cause** of any **suspected** abuse
- Penalty for failure to report, if convicted, is a misdemeanor which could carry a fine and possible jail time.

What do I do if I suspect abuse?

- If you sense a child is going to disclose, him or her and say



“I think this is something we should talk with the counselor about...”

- Do NOT ask questions of the child!
 - This may interfere should an investigation be needed

What do I do if I suspect abuse?

- What if the child discloses before I can stop them?
 - Do NOT ask any questions
 - Thank them for being brave enough to tell you
 - Tell them that it is not their fault
 - Tell them that you must share this with another trusted adult
 - Immediately take them to the principal, counselor or administrator

What if I'm wrong?

- There is only harm in NOT telling.....
- Immunity is provided to reporters when their report was made in good faith and with concern for the child's well being.