

# BOARD POLICY

WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

		Series Number: 400.42
Title	All Personnel	
	Child Abuse Reporting	

In compliance with state law and to provide protection to victims of child abuse, this policy requires anyone who, in the scope of their employment responsibilities for the College, examines, attends, counsels, or treats a child, to report suspected physical or sexual abuse of a child. This includes employees of the College's childcare center, as well as instructors, coaches, student employees, administrators and staff working with children ("College Reporters"). If unsure of whether a report is required, this policy encourages erring on the side of caution and making a report. Reporters do not need to have proof that abuse has occurred. A "child" is a person under the age of 18 years.

College Reporters are required to report alleged incidents of child abuse (physical or sexual) when they see, know about, or reasonably suspect the abuse of a child. within the scope of their assigned duties. A report should be made within 48 hours of suspecting abuse to (1) College administration either in writing or by verbal report; and (2) the Iowa Department of Human Services, by written or verbal report. Verbal reports should be followed up in writing. Additionally, if a College Reporter believes the child is in immediate danger, the local law enforcement agency shall also be notified, and nothing in this policy prohibits any College employee from reporting suspected child abuse in good faith to law enforcement.

It is possible that some College Reporters, as well as others who interact with children who are on the College's premises or participating in College sponsored programs or activities may be Mandatory Reporters of child abuse under Iowa Code § 232.69. These individuals have additional responsibilities to report *all forms* of child abuse as described in Iowa Code § 232.68(2). Under § 232.69, Mandatory Reporters must report suspected abuse to the Department of Human Services. Child Abuse can be reported to the Department of Human Services by calling the toll-free child abuse reporting hotline 24 hours a day: 1-800-362-2178.

The College strongly encourages everybody, including those who are not College or Mandatory Reporters under Iowa Code § 232.69, to promptly report all forms of child abuse of children who are on the College's premises participating in College sponsored programs or activities

Date of Adoption	12/11/1995	Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)
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Related Administrative Procedures and Cross References		