



The Cool Volunteer (EL)

Jimmy Smith is the parent of a 5th grade male student. His wife is a stay-at-home mom who cares for three younger siblings. After clearing Megan's Law and fingerprinting, Jimmy started volunteering in his son's class. On several occasions, Jimmy told you how "attractive" some of the 5th grade female students were, but these comments stopped after the principal spoke to him. The students call him the "cool volunteer" because of the way he talks and he doesn't follow school rules. You overhear the 5th grade female students say that Jimmy smokes weed and drinks. They also said that Jimmy texts and invites them, and their moms to the movies and concerts.

Discussion Questions

1. What initial actions would you take?
2. Is this enough information for reasonable suspicion of child abuse? If not, what information is required?
3. If you did not have reasonable suspicion, what clarifying questions would you ask?

Keep in Mind

District Policy

All employees with reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect *must* report the suspected abuse or neglect to a Child Protective Agency (CPA) pursuant to *Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Requirements*, BUL-1347.4.

Reasonable Suspicion Definition

Reasonable suspicion means it is reasonable for a person, based on the person's training, education, and experience, to entertain a suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

Clarifying Questions

An employee who does not have reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect may ask clarifying questions to determine whether or not suspected abuse or neglect exists. If an employee, however, does have reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect, the employee *must* file a SCAR without further questioning. Also, an employee with reasonable suspicion *must* file SCAR even if the CPA states "handle it administratively."

Required Steps for Filing a SCAR

Filing a SCAR consists of two steps:

- (1) Telephone call *must* be made immediately, or as soon as practically possible to a CPA; and
- (2) Written report *must* be filed with a CPA within 36 hours of receiving the information. The CPA will either be the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) or the local law enforcement. Generally, SCARs are filed with DCFS if the alleged perpetrator is in the home, and if the allegations involve an out-of-home perpetrator (e.g., employee), the SCARs are filed with local law enforcement (e.g., LAPD).