



Santa Fe College Rules Manual

Title: **Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse,
Abandonment and Neglect** **Rule 2.16**

General Authority: FS 1001.64

Law Implemented: FS 39.01; FS 39.205; FS 39.201; FAC 6A-14.099

Effective Date: February 19, 2020

Purpose: To promote the safety and well-being of minors associated with Santa Fe College and restating the legal requirements for mandatory timely reporting of known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

General Statement

The College does not condone or tolerate abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a child committed on the property of the College or during an event or function sponsored by the College.

Administrator Defined

The term "Administrator" means the following high level personnel who have been assigned the responsibilities of College-wide or campus-wide academic or administrative functions, who serve Santa Fe College with the title of: College President; Provost; Vice President; Associate Vice President; Assistant Vice President; Special Assistant to the President; Dean; Human Resources Director; Comptroller; Equity Officer/Title IX Coordinator; Chief of Police; and Athletic Director.

Reporting Obligations

Florida law requires *any person* who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected, to report such knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Department of Children and Family Services (DCF). Florida law further prohibits any person from knowingly and willfully preventing another person from meeting their reporting obligation to DCF. Any person may contact local law enforcement authorities to make a report of suspected child abuse at any time; however, this does not negate their statutory obligation to first report to DCF. Faculty, staff, and volunteers, who are not Administrators, shall also report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect committed on College property, or during a College-sponsored event or function to an Administrator as defined above.

In addition to the foregoing mandates that apply to “any person,” Administrators, and individuals employed or volunteering in the capacity of medical personnel at SF, if any, upon receiving information from faculty, staff, or other institution employees or volunteers regarding known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect committed on College property, or during a College-sponsored event or function, are required to report such knowledge or suspicion to DCF and are prohibited from knowingly and willfully preventing another person from reporting.

Sanctions for Non-Compliance

Florida State Board of Education (SBE) sanctions for non-reporting or non-compliance are codified in Florida Statute and establish specific sanctions and processes for a review of an allegation of non-compliance and include a possible sanction of a fine of \$1 million for each such failure to be assessed against the College in the event SBE determines that a College Administrator knowingly and willfully failed to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to DCF. A person who is required to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect and who knowingly and willfully fails to do so, or who knowingly and willfully prevents another person from doing so, commits a felony of the third degree.

Any employee who fails to comply with this rule will be subject to the applicable penalties as described above as well as additional direct penalties imposed by the College up to and including suspension and termination from employment.

Procedures Authorized

The President may establish procedures to implement this policy.