

# Important Information on Reporting Alleged Child Abuse and Neglect

All of us — families, communities and service providers — share responsibility for the safety and well-being of British Columbia's children and youth. That means we must all work together and, if we are concerned about the safety and well-being of a child or youth as outlined in section 13 of the Child, Family and Community Act (CFCSA), we must report the concerns to a child welfare worker.

*BC Hand-book for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2017, p. 5.*

If you suspect that a student is being (or has been) abused or neglected, report your concerns as soon as possible. Report alleged child abuse and neglect to the *Ministry for Children & Family Development (MCFD)* or the *Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Service Society (VACFSS)*.

**Section 14 (1) of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*** states "Subject to subsection (1.1), a person who has reason to believe that a child, including an Indigenous child, needs protection under section 13 must promptly report the matter to a director or a person designated by a director.

(1.1) A person who has reason to believe that an Indigenous child needs protection under section 13 and who reports the matter to an Indigenous authority is not required to report the matter to a director, or a person designated by a director, under subsection (1) of this section if the Indigenous authority confirms to the person that the Indigenous authority will assess the information in the report."

(Note: "person designated" refers to a child welfare worker/child protection social worker.)

- **Do not delay in reporting** child protection concerns to MCFD or VACFSS.
- Report disclosures from students **the same day you receive them**.
- Report physical signs of possible abuse **the same day you observe them**.
- **Consult** with your Principal, Counsellor or the District Principal, SEL Mental Health and Prevention Programs if you would like help in determining whether to make a report, or with any aspect of reporting.

**\*Both of the following steps must be completed\***

## Report to:

- **MCFD Provincial Centralized Screening: 1-800-663-9122** (24 hrs, 7 days a week) or
- **VACFSS: 778-331-4500** (8:30 am – 4:30 pm) and **604-660-4927** (Evenings and weekends)  
Note: The VACFSS contact is only for open cases. For new cases, please call the MCFD Provincial Centralized Screening: 1-800-663-9122.
- **Complete and submit the VSB Record of Verbal Report to MCFD or VACFSS online at:**  
<https://recordofverbalreport.vsb.bc.ca>

Link to the June 2017 [BC Handbook for Action on Child abuse and Neglect for Service Providers](#).