

**Antelope Valley Union High School District  
Facts about Child Abuse**

<p><b>Child Abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any act of omission (ignoring or failing to act) or commission (acting or perpetrating) that endangers or impairs the physical, emotional or sexual health, or development of a child under the age of 18 years</li> <li>The act of inflicting injury or allowing injury to result</li> <li>Injury or assault may be a single incident or repeated incidents of molestation</li> <li>The need to report is based on presence of injury, not the severity of the injury</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What is our main duty?</b> To REPORT any suspected incidence and NEVER to choose not to report due to “not having both sides of the story” or “all the facts”. DCS is responsible to investigate!</p>	
<p><b>Five Main Categories of Abuse / Neglect</b></p>	
<p><b>Physical Abuse</b> A physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruises, bite marks, abrasions</li> <li>Head injuries, internal injuries</li> <li>Fear of going home</li> <li>Does not feel safe at home</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical Neglect</b> The failure or unwillingness of a parent or caretaker to provide for the basic needs of the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate food, clothing, shelter, medical or dental care</li> <li>Inappropriate food, clothing, shelter</li> <li>Child rummaging through the trash</li> <li>No jacket or covering during cold</li> </ul>
<p><b>Emotional Maltreatment and Willful Cruelty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The failure to meet basic needs for love, security, praise, recognition, and responsibility</li> <li>Any behavior designed to control another person through the use of fear, humiliation, verbal or physical assault, emotional abuse, deprivation, or neglect</li> <li>Unreasonable or extreme patterns of discipline that result in emotional distress or mental suffering</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Sexual Abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acts of sexual assault on and sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent for the sexual gratification of another person</li> <li>Conduct or activities related to the use of pornography or prostitution</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Abuser</b> Typically known to the victim (95%)</p>	<p><b>Reasonable Suspicion</b> Objectively reasonable, based on facts, experiences, and training</p>
<p><b>Legal Obligation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All school employees are mandated reporters and must report any suspicions</li> <li>Civil and criminal penalties are imposed if reporting is not done and injury occurs</li> <li>Reporting is an “individual duty” and cannot be restricted by anyone</li> <li>If abuse is reasonably suspected, then it must be reported immediately</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reporting Child Abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Children’s Services</li> <li>Immediate call to <b>1-800-540-4000</b></li> <li>Complete report, send within 36 hrs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reporting Elder Abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anyone 18 or older</li> <li>Adult Protective Services</li> <li>Immediate call to <b>1-800-992-1660</b></li> </ul>