



Know your role, in Florida, It's the Law!

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE PERSONS

HISTORICAL

- In April 2012, Governor Rick Scott signed into law a bill that requires anyone with knowledge of known or suspected cases of child abuse to file a report with the Florida Abuse Hotline.
- The law also places certain responsibilities upon Institutions of Higher Education.
- The law became effective on October 1st, 2012.

FLORIDA TAKES THE LEAD

- The “Protection of Vulnerable Persons” law gives Florida the toughest mandatory reporting requirements in the nation for child abuse violations on school campuses.



WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

- Recent changes in Florida law now make it mandatory to report incidents of child abuse.
- Failure to report such incidents is a felony violation of state law.
- This training session provides the necessary information to comply with the law and to provide assistance to those in need.

WHO IS VULNERABLE?



There are more than 39 million survivors of sexual abuse in America.

1 in 5 children are solicited sexually while on the Internet before the age of 18.

30% of sexual abuse is never reported.

Approximately 20% of the victims of sexual abuse are under age eight.

Among sexual abuse victims there is a 42% increased chance of suicidal thoughts during adolescence.



90% of child sexual abuse victims know the perpetrator in some way.



95% of sexual abuse is preventable through education.



38% of the sexual abusers of boys are female.



Source:
Lauren'sKids.Org



WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

Pennsylvania Attorney General
Linda Kelly

"This is a case about a sexual predator who used his position within the university and community to repeatedly prey on young boys," Kelly said. **"It is also a case about officials who allegedly failed to report the sexual assault of a young boy after the information was brought to their attention,** and later made false statements to a grand jury that was investigating a series of assaults on young boys."

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

SANDUSKY CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION



Jerry **SANDUSKY**

- Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse (7 counts)
- Aggravated indecent assault (1 count)
- Corruption of minors (8 counts)
- Unlawful contact with a minor (8 counts)
- Endangering the welfare of a child (8 counts)
- Indecent assault (7 counts)
- Attempt to commit indecent assault (1 count)



ATTORNEY GENERAL LINDA L. KELLY

COMMISSIONER FRANK NOONAN,
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

SOME DEFINITIONS

- **“Abuse”** means any willful act or threatened act that results in any *physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm* that causes or is likely to cause the child’s physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired.
- **“Child”** is a person under the age of 18 years.
- **“Juvenile Sexual Offender”** is a child who exhibits direct sexual contact behavior or varying degrees of noncontact sexual behavior, such as making obscene phone calls, exhibitionism, voyeurism, and the showing or taking of lewd photographs.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- If you know or have a reasonable belief to suspect that a child ...
 1. is abused by an adult or
 2. is the victim of childhood sexual abuse or
 3. is the victim of a juvenile sexual offender.
- You must immediately notify the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Abuse Hotline. Notification must be made by Calling, Faxing or E-Mailing the Florida DCF Abuse Hotline at...
 - 1-800-962-2873, or
 - [Florida DCF Abuse Reporting Website](#)
- A violation of the law is a 3rd Degree Felony!

DISCUSSION POINTS

Review these scenarios, **Do You Report Them?**

- A.** A child tells you that she was sexually abused in the past by an adult teacher.
- B.** A 15 year old receives a broken arm during a fight with an 18 year old on the campus.
- C.** An employee enters a room and discovers an adult student having sex with a child.
- D.** You discover a 17 year old exposing his personal body parts to a 12 year old.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Do You Report Them?

- A.** Yes, you know that a child has reported sexual abuse in her childhood.
- B.** Yes, you know that an adult has abused a child.
- C.** Yes, you know that the fellow adult employee has abused a child.
- D.** Yes, you know that the child is exposing himself to another child.

IRSC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Administrators must...
 1. Report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, and neglect when notified by faculty, staff, and/or another administrator...
 2. That such incidents have occurred on school property or during school sponsored events or functions,
 3. And, administrators **may not** prevent others from reporting such incidents.
- A violation will result in a \$1 million dollar fine to the College!

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY FOR FALSE REPORTING

- **F.S. 39.206 Administrative fines for false report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a child; civil damages.—**

(1) In addition to any other penalty authorized by this section, chapter 120, or other law, the department may impose a fine, not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation, upon a person who knowingly and willfully makes a false report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a child, or a person who counsels another to make a false report.

IMMUNITY FOR GOOD FAITH REPORTING

- F.S. 39.205(9)

Anyone making a report who is acting in good faith is immune from any liability under this subsection.

HOW TO REPORT INCIDENTS

- Notification must be made by Calling, Faxing or E-Mailing the Florida DCF Abuse Hotline.

Telephone: 1-800-96-ABUSE
1-800-962-2873

Fax: 1-800-914-0004

Web report:

[http:// www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/)

CONCLUSION...AS EASY AS 1-2-3

1.

- We each have a **Responsibility...**

2.

- In the **Protection** of Vulnerable Persons...

3.

- By **Reporting** abuse immediately.

For additional information, contact the IRSC Director of Campus Safety/Security, Human Resources, or your supervisor

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or need guidance on the notification process please contact:

- **Human Resources**

- ❖ Melissa Whigham
- ❖ mwhigham@irsc.edu
- ❖ (772) 462-7282

- **Safety/Security Department**

- ❖ Alan Montgomery
- ❖ jmontgom@irsc.edu
- ❖ (772) 462-7860