

WORKING WITH MINORS AND MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Minors may come to campus for a variety of reasons. They may visit as prospective students or they may come to participate in classes, camps, and programming. SAIC personnel may also interact with minors at local events or programming conducted off-campus. Whatever the reason for its work with minors, SAIC takes their safety and security very seriously.

Pursuant to the Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/4), school personnel (including administrators, staff, faculty members, and instructors) are deemed to be “mandatory reporters.” Therefore, it is the policy of SAIC that any school personnel who, in his or her professional or official capacity, has a reasonable cause to believe that a minor on campus may be an abused or neglected child shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Department of Children and Family Services via that Department’s toll free hotline (1-800-25-ABUSE). Anyone making such a report shall also notify the Dean of Continuing Studies.

“Reasonable cause” does not require that the individual making the observation conduct an investigation prior to making the report of his or her suspicion that a child has been abused or neglected or is at risk of it. In making a report, the caller should provide the following information, if known:

- The child’s name, address and age
- The nature of the suspected abuse or neglect, including when and where it occurred
- The names of suspected perpetrators and their relationship to the child (parent, teacher, etc.)
- Any other information that may be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse or neglect or in identifying the person believed to have caused it.

For purposes of this Act, “abused child” means a minor child whose parent or immediate family member, or any person responsible for the child’s welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child’s parent:

- Inflicts, causes to be inflicted, allows to be inflicted, or creates a substantial risk of physical injury upon such child by other than accidental means resulting in or likely to result in death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
- Commits or allows to be committed any sex offense against a child;
- Commits or allows to be committed any act or torture against the child;
- Inflicts excessive corporal punishment upon the child;
- Causes or allows the transfer or administration of a controlled substance to the child except when dispensed in compliance with a prescription issued for that child;
- Commits or allows to be committed the offense of female genital mutilation; and
- Allows the child to be placed into involuntary servitude, sexual or otherwise.

A “neglected child” means a minor child who:

- Is not receiving the proper or necessary nourishment or medically indicated treatment or support necessary for the child’s well being, including adequate food, clothing and shelter;
- Has been abandoned without a proper plan of care that is likely to be injurious to the child; or
- Is subjected to an environment likely to be injurious to the child’s well-being.

The Act provides that a caller to the child abuse hotline must, within 48 hours thereafter, send a written confirmation of the report to the appropriate field office of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The Department will provide a form to use in sending that confirmation. If a child’s death is suspected to have been caused by abuse or neglect, then a call must also be made to the county’s coroner or medical examiner.

The Act also provides that any person who in good faith makes a report of child abuse or neglect “shall have immunity from any liability, civil, criminal or that otherwise might result by reason of such actions.” In addition, the names of persons making reports are not given to the person they name as the abuser or to anyone else unless ordered by a hearing officer or judge.