

HUCKABAY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF
CHILDREN PLAN**

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN

CHILD ABUSE

SUSPECTED – Level I

- Ensure oral report to local police, County Sheriff's Department (965-3318), or Child Protective Services (965-2605) is made within 48 hours.
- Document actions and decision.
- Do not attempt to investigate or verify information until or unless given direction by superintendent.
- Permit interview with child by authorized, properly identified officials only.
- Cooperate with the request of the investigator regarding notice to parents.
- Provide follow-up counseling.

ACCUSATION AGAINST SCHOOL PERSONNEL – Level II

- Document Report. Do not investigate or attempt to verify information until or unless given direction by superintendent.
- Notify superintendent.
- Report to local police, Child Protective Services, as needed.
- Provide for police investigators and notify parents of procedures.
- Allow time for employee to be interviewed and arrange for substitute.
- Prepare fact sheet and media statement.
- Convene campus crisis team and counselors, as needed.
- Plan for parent inquiries, staff meeting, safety measures.
- Notify parents of affected student that crisis counseling is being provided for alleged incident.
- Provide crisis counseling only after statements are taken.
- Debrief with campus crisis team and staff.

As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

A child who has experienced sexual abuse or any other type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Be aware as a parent or other trusted adult that disclosures of sexual abuse may be more indirect than disclosures of physical abuse and neglect, and it is important to be calm and comforting if your child, or another child, confides in you. Reassure the child that he or she did the right thing by telling you.

As a parent, if your child is a victim of sexual abuse or other maltreatment, the campus counselor, Mrs. Edwards or the principal, Mr. Chaplin can provide information regarding counseling options for you and your child available in your area. They can be contacted at the Huckabay School at 254-968-5274

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs. To find out what services may be available in your county, see:

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention and Early Intervention/Programs Available In Your County/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp).

The following Web sites might help you become more aware of child abuse and neglect:

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/signs.cfm>

<http://sapr.nonprofitoffice.com>

<http://www.taasa.org/member/materials2.php>

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse1.shtml

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml

Reports may be made to:

The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (1 800-252-5400 or on the Web at <http://www.txabusehotline.org>).