

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD POLICY ON REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

PURPOSE:

To inform University community members of their obligations under University policy to report suspected child abuse.

POLICY:

ANY MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY who observes something that they suspect to be child abuse on campus or at a University-sponsored event is required to report the suspected abuse, as described below. You do not have to know for certain that abuse is taking place. It's enough that you reasonably suspect that a child has been abused. When in doubt, report it.

WHAT KIND OF HARM APPLIES TO THIS POLICY? Child abuse can include physical injury (not caused by accident), mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, maltreatment, or neglect (whether physical, emotional or moral), including being denied proper care attention. Anyone under the age of **18** is considered a child.

The University prohibits any kind of retaliation against any person who, acting in good faith, reports potential child abuse or testifies in a legal action regarding child abuse.

If a University employee willfully fails to report a case of suspected child abuse, then the University has a right to impose disciplinary action up to – and including – dismissal.

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT:

1. IF YOU SUSPECT CHILD ABUSE ON CAMPUS OR AT A UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED EVENT, immediately contact either Public Safety 24 hours/day at **campus extension 7777 (or 860.768.7777)**, or Connecticut Department of Children and Families at **1-800-842-2288** (if no answer, then immediately contact Childhelp at **1-800-422-4453**).
2. IF A CHILD IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, contact Public Safety at **campus extension 7777 (or 860.768.7777)**, or call local police at **911**, to obtain immediate protection for the child.

In either report situation, be prepared to describe to the best of your ability the following:

- Your name and telephone number;
- The date, time, and location of the incident(s);
- Whether the child is in immediate danger, and whether an ambulance is required;
- A description of the child, the potential abuser and parent/caretaker (name and address if known, age, gender, clothing and physical description);
- A description of the incident(s), or basis for concern; and
- A description of any vehicle involved (if relevant).

IF CHILD ABUSE IS OBSERVED OR SUSPECTED IN CONNECTION WITH A RESEARCH PROJECT:

The University's research policy requires ethical treatment and protection of any human research participant. All human subjects research is safeguarded by the University's Human Subjects Committee ("HSC"). The HSC reviews, approves and monitors reporting procedures, and the principal investigator is responsible for all aspects of the research, including reporting any child abuse identified through the research. In addition to calling one of the numbers listed above, anyone who observes something that they suspect to be child abuse that is connected in any way to research should contact the Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies at 860-786-4504.