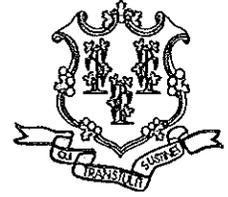




**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**



Public Hearing Testimony

Education Committee

March 2, 2016

S.B. No. 316 AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSTING OF CARELINE INFORMATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Department of Children and Families **supports** S.B. No. 316, An Act Concerning the Posting of Careline Information in Public Schools.

The DCF Careline is the centralized hotline that operates 24 hours/7 days a week to receive calls from people with questions, concerns, and reports of child abuse and neglect. The Careline also provides evening, weekend, and holiday investigation responses to immediate situations concerning abuse and neglect of children.

Last year, the DCF Careline received 90,492 calls, of which 50,484 were reports of child abuse or neglect. DCF has seen a steady increase in the number of calls from mandated reporters as a result of:

- statutory expansion of mandated reporters;
- on-line training available to mandated reporters; and
- increased penalties for failure or delays in reporting

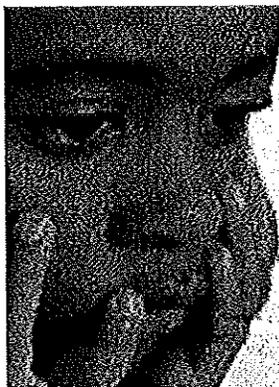
Mandated reporters are required to report or cause a report to be made when, in the ordinary course of their employment or profession, they have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child under the age of 18 has been abused, neglected or is placed in imminent risk of serious harm. (Connecticut General Statutes §17a-101a)

As a result of Public Act 11-93 and Public Act 15-205, significant changes were made to the general statutes that authorize and prescribe the investigations of child abuse and neglect by the Department of Children and Families in public and private schools. The DCF website contains information pertaining to the changes made with respect to the mandatory training of school and district personnel, including on-line training designed specifically for school employees. DCF also provides, upon request, in-person mandated reporter training and refresher training to school district personnel and other groups of mandated reporters.

DCF will explore low cost methods to disseminate this information to schools. Attached to our testimony are some samples of other state's messages to encourage the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect.

CONNECTICUT DCF CARELINE - 1-800-842-2288

(TDD: 1-800-624-5518)



Child abuse
doesn't
report itself.

Make The Call, Help A Child

1-877 NJ ABUSE

1-877-652-2373

NEW JERSEY



MICHIGAN



PROTECTING CHILDREN...

it's the LAW in Illinois

As a school employee,
you are a mandated reporter and
required by law
to report suspected child abuse
and neglect.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN
CALL 1.800.25.ABUSE

www.DCFS.Illinois.gov

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Child & Family Services



ILLINOIS

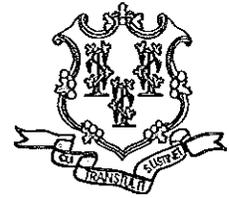


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony

Education Committee

March 2, 2016



**S.B. No. 323 AN ACT CONCERNING UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT
BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**

The Department of Children and Families offers the following comments regarding S.B. No. 323, An Act Concerning Allegations of Abuse or Neglect by School Employees.

This bill would require the removal of all references in a school employee's personnel records of a report and investigation relating to an unsubstantiated allegation of abuse or neglect by such school employee and to prohibit the use of such report and investigation against such school employee for any purpose relating to his or her employment.

Similar legislation passed both the House and the Senate last year but was vetoed by Governor Malloy. The Governor's veto message of Public Act 15-112 expressed a concern that last year's legislation was "overly broad in its requirement of not only the removal of the record of an unsubstantiated complaint from the State Department of Education, the local school district and the teachers file, but in its requirement that it remove 'any other records relating to such school employee.'"

DCF supports the testimony of the State Department of Education. It is important to recognize that DCF, SDE and local school districts all have different roles and responsibilities when investigating allegations of abuse or neglect perpetrated by a school employee. The Department of Children and Families offers its willingness to work with members of the Committee and the proponents of this legislation